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1 Journal and the release of a private conversation?  
 2 [redacted] I don't. I mean, I, I, my  
 3 suspicions are they had ample discussions about this.  
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.  
 5 [redacted] But I don't recall any specific  
 6 discussions. But, or that I was present during those  
 7 discussions.  
 8 [redacted] Okay. Nothing like Deputy Director  
 9 McCabe calling Mike Kortan into his office and saying how  
 10 do things like this happen, where did this come from?  
 11 [redacted] Look, he's had a number of heated  
 12 discussions with a lot of executives. And typically, if  
 13 he's going to be there, you know, he's going to have a  
 14 heart-to-heart or a, a confrontation with (\*indiscernible  
 15 1:28:54) I don't want to be there to cause further  
 16 embarrassment. And so I would not have probably stayed  
 17 for that conversation.  
 18 [redacted] You were close enough to the Deputy  
 19 Director, though, to observe at least what he was, how he  
 20 was reacting. And I'm wondering when this information  
 21 came out in the Wall Street Journal, do you remember any  
 22 of his reactions the day after?  
 23 [redacted]: I don't.  
 24 [redacted] Okay.  
 25 [redacted] And he is incredibly good at, you

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1 [redacted] Okay.  
 2 [redacted] I mean, that's --  
 3 [redacted] We can stop for a moment.  
 4 [redacted] Yeah, the question is can I read my,  
 5 read my --  
 6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off  
 7 the record and back on the record.)  
 8 [redacted] Back on the record after a short  
 9 break. It is around 2:35. So, we were asking you for  
 10 your recollection of conversations with McCabe or  
 11 conversations that McCabe had with others about his  
 12 private conversation appearing in the, in the Wall Street  
 13 Journal. And you, we asked you to look at some notes to  
 14 see if you have any follow-up information about that. And  
 15 if you do, just get back with us on that.  
 16 Do you recall, did anyone ever tell you that Mr.  
 17 McCabe was upset that his private conversations appeared  
 18 in the Wall Street Journal article?  
 19 [redacted] I don't recall that conversation  
 20 specifically. I mean, I, I think there was a general  
 21 sense that there was displeasure there about, about the  
 22 leaks. And I think that would have happened at any of the  
 23 morning meetings where he would say hey, look, this is,  
 24 you know, we can't, can't do this. Or, I'm just  
 25 paraphrasing, but I, I suspect that there were instances

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1 know, when we talk about compartmentalization, I mean, he  
 2 is, he is incredibly mentally strong. He's as mentally,  
 3 as mentally tough a guy as I have probably ever known. So  
 4 he has this great ability to just keep focusing on the  
 5 work. You know, he'll have, you know, discussions with,  
 6 you know, his executives where he's displeased. And he  
 7 will get animated in meetings, but he's really, he can  
 8 continue to plow ahead. That's something I've always  
 9 admired about him.  
 10 So I, I don't remember the discussion. And I'm  
 11 sure there was a discussion. I mean I, I would think that  
 12 as a matter of course you'd be calling your AD for OPA in  
 13 your office, and it's possible that I even made the call  
 14 to bring Kortan down. But whether or not I, I know I  
 15 would not have stayed there for the discussion.  
 16 [redacted] Is there anything in your notebooks  
 17 there for the time period --  
 18 [redacted]: Well --  
 19 [redacted] Oh, you don't want to do that yet?  
 20 Okay, okay.  
 21 [redacted]: Well, because it might take a  
 22 little time.  
 23 [redacted] Oh, okay. Go ahead.  
 24 [redacted] I can get, I do have dates in here,  
 25 so I could probably get to October pretty quick.

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1 where he showed the displeasure.  
 2 [redacted] Did, I mean, did you, did you ever  
 3 hear, about even if you didn't have a specific  
 4 conversation, did you ever hear from someone else that,  
 5 hey, Andy is really upset about his private conversation  
 6 appearing in the Wall Street Journal? Did that ever  
 7 happen?  
 8 [redacted] It doesn't ring a bell to me.  
 9 [redacted] Okay.  
 10 [redacted] That's not to say that it didn't  
 11 happen. I just, I just don't recall --  
 12 [redacted] Sure. No, I'm, I'm stressing --  
 13 [redacted] One conversation in, you know, a  
 14 year it's, it's hard to --  
 15 [redacted] What about with respect to  
 16 Director Comey? Did you ever hear that Director Comey was  
 17 upset that McCabe's private conversations with DOJ were  
 18 appearing in the Wall Street Journal?  
 19 [redacted] If he did, I don't, he, he would not  
 20 have, I don't think at the time it would have been, I  
 21 would just have moved down there with him, so I don't  
 22 think we would have had that relationship at the time.  
 23 [redacted] Okay.  
 24 [redacted] I mean I, I guess I recall just a  
 25 general displeasure, you know, about, you know, these



1 kinds of things. I mean, leaks aren't, you know, leaks  
2 aren't something that we enjoy. So I just, you know, in  
3 retrospect, I'm thinking, hey, you know, it sounded right.  
4 I do recall just a general unease on the floor about this  
5 kind of thing.

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So it sounds, as I'm, as I  
7 understand you, is it fair to say that you did not hear a  
8 reaction from Mr. Comey that he was okay with the private  
9 conversations --

10 [redacted] No. No.  
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- appearing in the paper?

12 [redacted] And I say no. I've never heard him  
13 say that he was okay with it.

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

15 [redacted] And I would be shocked if he were  
16 okay with it. I just can't, it just doesn't seem like his  
17 style to me, knowing him how, that I, like I do now. Just  
18 like I said, I think I would be shocked if I, if I found  
19 out that Mr. McCabe approved this or sanctioned it in any  
20 way.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And what is it about Mr. Comey's  
22 style, you had elaborated earlier about why you would be  
23 surprised if Mr. McCabe did it. But what about Mr.  
24 Comey's style? What would, what is it about his style  
25 that you'd be shocked if he authorized --

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1 don't think I have ever heard him say it. I mean it's --

2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Which part are you referring to?

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm referring to whether --

4 [redacted] Are you asking me to shut down a  
5 validly predicated investigation?

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah, when he's quoted here. Do you  
7 know if those are --

8 [redacted] I do not know. Yeah.

9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- words that ever left his mouth?

10 [redacted] I do not know that.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you know anything about --

12 [redacted] That's the heart of the whole  
13 conversation I guess.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you know anything about,  
15 something that goes along with that, though, that he's  
16 getting pressured to close it down, the Clinton Foundation  
17 investigation, that would kind of go with that type of --

18 [redacted] Pressured internally or externally?

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

20 [redacted] Either, either or?

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I guess that there it looks like it  
22 would be from DOJ.

23 [redacted] Yeah. I don't know that either. I  
24 mean, I would tell you that I know there were, I think  
25 Lisa, in that one meeting that we talked about before

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1 [redacted] Just the things that he said. You  
2 know, he's, he's, I mean, he talks a lot about, you know,  
3 you know, leadership, you know, process, you know,  
4 integrity, thoroughness, competency, independence. And  
5 none of this, none of this follows his ideals that I, that  
6 I know of. I mean, he was, he, one thing, you know, we  
7 talk a lot in the organization about having Director's  
8 priority initiatives. You know, and those are things  
9 that, you know, Cyber, we're rebuilding our Cyber work  
10 force, or digital transformation. You know, leadership.

11 We don't need to have, and I've always been an  
12 advocate, we don't need to have Director priority  
13 initiatives because he tells us what those are. At every  
14 speech, you know, independence, competency, you know,  
15 diversity. We know what his, what he, what he was all  
16 about. And that just doesn't mesh with how I know the  
17 man. I can't imagine that.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can I ask another, oh, I don't want  
19 to --

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Go ahead if you have something  
21 else to say.

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, yeah. I'm wanting to know if  
23 you know whether Andy McCabe ever actually said this?

24 [redacted] I don't know that. Absolutely not.

25 Yeah, I mean, I don't know that. Great question, but I, I

1 where I advocated that we just need to continue the  
2 investigation, and we wouldn't, and I said we would never  
3 do that in any other way.

4 You know, but there were other people who seemed  
5 to believe that, hey, there is some, some law on the books  
6 or some policy that we can't proceed with these kinds of  
7 investigations because they are so disruptive during a  
8 political campaign. And I think there is something out  
9 there that says we have to really sort of modify our  
10 behavior in that way. But I think Lisa took the opposite  
11 view of me in that, you know, we need to, you know, we  
12 probably need to not pursue it.

13 That's my, that's my recollection. It could be,  
14 it could be wrong. But I believe she was in the room that  
15 day during this meeting. And I think she was giving him  
16 a, you know, a different view, which was let's shut it  
17 down. Let's wait until after the election and then open  
18 it back up after. Again, that's just my recollection.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So it sounds -- I just want to for  
20 completeness on the record make sure I understand this  
21 subject to you, you know, check-ins and stuff in your  
22 notes.

23 [redacted] Right.

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) It sounds like you don't recall  
25 Mr. McCabe having any specific conversation with any other

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1 FBI executive about the fact that his private  
2 conversations were appearing in the October 30th Wall  
3 Street Journal article?

4 [redacted] I don't recall that. No. And  
5 that's not to say it didn't happen.

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No, no, no.

7 [redacted] I just certainly don't recall it.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. As you sit here today.

9 [redacted] No.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And again, if you find something  
11 that --

12 [redacted] Right.

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- that that happened. Do you  
14 recall anyone at the FBI, other than conversations that  
15 we've identified with [redacted] Mr. Sweeney, being upset  
16 about McCabe's private conversation appearing in this Wall  
17 Street Journal article.

18 [redacted] That Sweeney was upset?

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No, no. Other than conversations  
20 you had with, that we've already talked about --

21 [redacted] Oh, with other than those?

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Other than those two that we  
23 talked about. Do you recall anyone else at the FBI  
24 expressing to you or whether you heard about from others  
25 people being upset?

1 missed the date, but was he a direct report to you on the  
2 Deputy's staff?

3 [redacted] He was. He was.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So he, was he --

5 [redacted] I'm sorry. And so that was late,  
6 yeah, so he came in in August of 2016.

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

8 [redacted] So just at the tail end of my term  
9 there.

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

11 [redacted] So I didn't put him, I didn't factor  
12 him in there --

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That's fine.

14 [redacted] -- because he kind of was a late  
15 entrant.

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

17 [redacted] Into the, into the fray. And I  
18 think he got there late, late-August of 2016. Because he  
19 left this year to do a 12-month TDY. I think he left in  
20 July of 2017.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. I'm going to go to another  
22 document.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That's fine. So, let me show you  
24 this document here. So that is an email from December,  
25 December 2016. And it's referencing a media pull. And

1 [redacted] Yeah. [redacted] phonetic sp.) [redacted]  
2 [redacted] obviously, and myself, we talked about it a lot.  
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Does he work at the FBI?

4 [redacted] He does, yeah.

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

6 [redacted]  
7 [redacted] and he came  
8 in as the GS-15 Supervisory Special Agent on the Deputy's  
9 staff in August of 2016.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can you spell that one more time?

11 [redacted] He also did not attend any  
12 of the, any of the Midyear meetings or any of the Clinton  
13 Foundation meetings. He's, he was primarily helping the  
14 Deputy's Office work on our Office of Private Sector  
15 engagement. So he's really involved with that. But he  
16 and I would talk, you know, occasionally, hey, you know,  
17 this is no good. You know, just as, as agents and as  
18 friends talk.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And you specifically remember  
20 talking about this conversation with him?

21 [redacted] I don't know if it was about this  
22 one or just in general. And we, we had a lot of  
23 discussions about the floor and, you know, about Lisa, who  
24 he was not a fan of either. So we commiserated.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was he a direct report? Maybe I

1 there's a reference to, the bottom part is an email from  
2 Pete Strzok to Andy McCabe about Mike S. wants to talk  
3 about whether we have opened a leak investigation into the  
4 publicity surrounding the C Foundation. He said he'd like  
5 to discuss this, that D would like to do something. Do  
6 you see that there?

7 [redacted] Um-hmm.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) At this date, are you still the  
9 Chief of Staff, or are you transitioning to, or have you  
10 already transitioned to the Director's Office?

11 [redacted] I have already left. Yeah. I'm  
12 down, I think, I think my last day on the Deputy's staff

13 was [redacted]

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

15 [redacted] Yeah.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you remember this issue about  
17 the D, I'm assuming that's the Director, wanting to do  
18 something about leaks and publicity surrounding the C  
19 Foundation?

20 [redacted] Yeah. I have not seen the email,  
21 but I assume this is Mike Steinbach that he's referring  
22 to. I think. I assume it's Mike Steinbach.

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

24 [redacted] I guess. But I have not seen the  
25 email, and I don't, I'm not aware of the, the issue.



1 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What I'm also wondering is, do you  
 2 know if, so no specific recollection about a leak  
 3 investigation being opened in connection with publicity  
 4 surrounding the C' Foundation?  
 5 [redacted] I think we, yeah, I mean, I think  
 6 that there was a general sense that AD McNamara was doing  
 7 something internally.  
 8 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.  
 9 [redacted] Yeah. But I, I didn't know to what  
 10 end, and I assume it was --  
 11 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.  
 12 [redacted] -- I assume it was this sort of the  
 13 broader view. Which one are you pointing to?  
 14 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, so I'm wondering if, what  
 15 you're talking about the, the broader review and the  
 16 revising the media policy, that this email relates to that  
 17 effort.  
 18 [redacted] No, I think this is more  
 19 specifically related to the, the investigations, the  
 20 internal investigations that, that AD McNamara would have  
 21 been pursuing.  
 22 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, I see.  
 23 [redacted] On leak investigations.  
 24 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see. Okay.  
 25 [redacted] And I think, because I knew that she

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1 including the time when you were [redacted] for  
 2 Director Comey, is this just, is this information  
 3 something that Comey would have been -- is this  
 4 information something before it was disclosed that Comey  
 5 would have wanted to be involved in?  
 6 [redacted] I don't think so. For sure. Yeah,  
 7 this was something that I think that the Deputy would have  
 8 briefed Director Comey on. Whether they would have,  
 9 probably would not have briefed it in an open forum. They  
 10 probably would have done, because it's usual the deputy  
 11 and maybe the ADD would attend closeouts with the Director  
 12 that were not open to others. And so they talked about  
 13 any number of, you know, sensitive matters, you know, in  
 14 the, in the evenings. And those are typically happening  
 15 anywhere between, you know, 4:00 and 6:00, you know,  
 16 depending on the Director's schedule.  
 17 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So whether it was either formally  
 18 written in a policy or Director Comey's informal practice,  
 19 did you, did he expect to be involved in decisions to  
 20 disclose investigations to the media, do you know?  
 21 [redacted] I don't think we have ever had that  
 22 discussion, but I would think that if anything was  
 23 disclosed to the media, that the boss would have been  
 24 tracking it and would have had some say into it.  
 25 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

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1 had, and that's when [redacted] and I probably had a substantive  
 2 discussion because AD McNamara had done some initial work,  
 3 and I think had started to ask around --  
 4 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.  
 5 [redacted] -- about who had access to certain,  
 6 certain data.  
 7 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.  
 8 [redacted] And so she was, and so I, I sensed  
 9 it was this, looking at this, it makes sense that it's the  
 10 AD McNamara investigation.  
 11 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 12 [redacted] To the extent that it even is even  
 13 open. I mean, at any given time, it sounds like now we've  
 14 got multiple IGs, multiple internal investigations, and so  
 15 I can't keep track of them all. I kind of, I'm kind of a  
 16 head-in-the-sand, I mean, I'm not, if I'm not doing the  
 17 bad thing, then I'm not worried about the bad thing. You  
 18 know, but I should have probably taken a larger role in  
 19 securing the Deputy and making sure that he was not, you  
 20 know, at risk.  
 21 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Going back to the highlighted  
 22 portions on the October 30th article.  
 23 [redacted] Um-hmm.  
 24 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Is that something both in your  
 25 time as Deputy for McCabe and when you were, and then

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1 [redacted] He had a pretty good finger on the  
 2 pulse of things, and the morning meetings were fairly  
 3 robust. He was, he was, he did fly at the, you know, at  
 4 the 50,000 foot level. He was much more of a CEO than a  
 5 COO. But something like this, I think he would have, he  
 6 would have been involved in.  
 7 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And when, you're, for the record,  
 8 you're referring to the highlighted paragraphs --  
 9 [redacted] The media -- yes.  
 10 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- in the October 30th --  
 11 [redacted] Correct.  
 12 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- Wall Street Journal article.  
 13 [redacted] So if there was some strategy, if  
 14 there's, if, if the discussion is that there is some  
 15 strategy internally to put this information out with, you  
 16 know, either Director McCabe's knowledge and his tacit  
 17 consent, I cannot imagine. I mean, I cannot imagine him  
 18 doing that without Director Comey's knowledge.  
 19 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And what is it about the  
 20 information there that would warrant Director Comey's  
 21 involvement?  
 22 [redacted] Well, I mean it, it seems, you know,  
 23 no its surface that it's, that it's putting DOJ in a  
 24 position where we're asking them, they're, you know, hey,  
 25 are you, for political reasons, asking us to shut down an

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1 investigation? This, the statement, you know, as I look  
2 at the statement, I'm not going to say it contradicts what  
3 I saw and heard during the meeting that we talked about  
4 [redacted]  
5 [redacted] Because I think there was very much in those --  
6 and now, granted, this is several months after that. And  
7 I would have missed many of those meetings that would have  
8 happened in between.

9 But it seems to me, this seems to be much more  
10 combative and much more solidly on the ground that, yes,  
11 we're pursuing this. But that's not the sense that I got  
12 from that meeting in, in the middle of the summer,  
13 whenever I can find that meeting. Because it seemed very,  
14 at that point, that we didn't know whether or not we were  
15 going to pursue it.

16 [redacted] Um-hmm.  
17 [redacted] So I find this a little striking  
18 that we are now going to go in October and say, yeah,  
19 we're full into this thing. We're full into this  
20 investigation. You guys are telling us to close it down.  
21 When my last brush with it was that we didn't even know  
22 what we were going to do with it. And I was advocating,  
23 you know, that we should continue. But I don't know, I  
24 don't know, I think, I know Bill Sweeney has stronger  
25 feelings about it because he was close with it because he

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1 Comey about the series of articles that we presented to  
2 you?

3 [redacted] No. If he, if he would have done  
4 it, he would have done it privately, and he would not have  
5 done it in, in the public.

6 [redacted] Why do you say that? Because it  
7 sounds like briefing, that he was the last person to talk  
8 at the Director's meetings.

9 [redacted] He was, but he would have, but he,  
10 but there is, and you've probably heard this term before,  
11 but there is always the one after. I've got one thing for  
12 after. I've got one thing for after. And it was pretty,  
13 pretty commonplace that, you know, if you've got one thing  
14 for after, it's a sensitive matter. Specifically if it  
15 was brought up by Priestap, but he's got one after on  
16 Midyear, I would step out. Or if somebody else had one  
17 after, or AD Kortan. But he was always in the hallway. I  
18 mean, he is in the hallway, he's probably in the hallway  
19 at any time, seven or eight times a day. So he could have  
20 easily been able to just duck in to talk to the boss on  
21 this matter personally.

22 [redacted] Which matter?

23 [redacted] The, the, this, is that what you're  
24 referring to?

25 [redacted] Right. The --

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1 [redacted]  
2 [redacted] Was the fact that it involved a  
3 high-profile, is the fact that the highlighted portions  
4 reference a high-profile, sensitive investigation of the  
5 Clintons, does that fact weigh in favor or against  
6 Director Comey wanting to --

7 [redacted] It weighs in favor of Director  
8 Comey's wanting to be involved.

9 [redacted] Beforehand?

10 [redacted] Beforehand. I would, I would think.  
11 I cannot imagine -- first, I can't imagine that we would  
12 release it and, and it's very self-serving. I mean, I  
13 guess we, you know, I just can't imagine us having that  
14 kind of a strategy to do that. But, you know, I'm, you  
15 know, I'm wearing Captain America cufflinks, so I, you  
16 know, I'm just, so I just don't think that, I don't think  
17 in those terms. I guess I don't think in that, in that  
18 way.

19 [redacted] I know you attended a lot of  
20 meetings where Mike Kortan would say these are the  
21 articles that the press is working on. Do you remember in  
22 late-October 2016, any discussion from Mike Kortan about  
23 either the first article that had to do with [redacted]  
24 and campaign contributions, follow-ups to that article?  
25 do you remember him briefing either Mr. McCabe or Mr.

b7A -1  
b7E -1

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -3  
b7C -3

1 [redacted] Yeah.  
2 [redacted] -- whether to release that private  
3 conversation.

4 [redacted] I never heard that conversation.

5 [redacted] Okay. Let me ask you this about the  
6 interactions with Mr. Kortan. I mean, does Mr. Kortan  
7 have the reputation as somebody who always seeks  
8 permission before his contacts with the press, or is he  
9 more of a request forgiveness kind of guy if he gets out  
10 in front of his bosses?

11 [redacted] I think he's, I think he's pretty  
12 much in the camp of, you know, talking this out first. I  
13 mean, he's got numbers, you know, he's got incredible  
14 contacts with the community. He's been doing this for  
15 years. He did it during the Mueller era, and he's done it  
16 with both Director Mueller, Directors Mueller, Comey, and,  
17 and now with Wray. And he's been extended a couple of  
18 times. He's now no longer an agent. He's now back on as  
19 a contract employee. But I suspect that he would have, I  
20 can't imagine him doing this on his own.

21 [redacted] Okay.

22 [redacted] Yeah.

23 [redacted] Do you have any information about  
24 him being involved in getting this private conversation  
25 out to the Wall Street Journal for use in this article?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2



b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 [redacted] No. No knowledge at all.  
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you have any knowledge of other  
 3 times where Mike Kortan might let something out that his  
 4 bosses were not pleased about, one might say?  
 5 [redacted] Nothing specific. I mean, I know  
 6 that there were times where, you know, Andy or even Mark  
 7 Giuliano were frustrated with, you know, some issue. But  
 8 I could not tell you what those specific issues were in  
 9 retrospect. Look, you know, you know, executives get mad  
 10 at other executives all the time. But I don't remember  
 11 the conversation specifically with Kortan on this issue,  
 12 and I'm referring to the highlighted portions, or any  
 13 other thing. I mean, I know he talks to the boss. He  
 14 talks to both Mr. McCabe and Director Comey all the time.  
 15 And a lot of those conversations, I would say 95 percent  
 16 of those conversations are outside of my purview.  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 18 [redacted] Just because I'm running the staff  
 19 and I'm doing other things and now as Director Wray's  
 20 [redacted] even as Director Comey's [redacted]  
 21 [redacted] I have a section of about 100 people that I  
 22 lead. I have both the AG's protective detail, the Deputy  
 23 Director, the Deputy's protective detail. I have the  
 24 Strategic Review Officer on Lessons Learned Shop, I have  
 25 Executive Secretariat and the Director's Coordination

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -1  
b7C -1

1 [redacted] So. And that's just my, that's my  
 2 view on that.  
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You also indicated much earlier than  
 4 when we're talking, that you were aware of times when Lisa  
 5 Page and Pete Strzok were engaged with the media.  
 6 [redacted] There was one instance when I  
 7 believe it was an authorized interview.  
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Tell us about that.  
 9 [redacted] And I, I, I only know that they were  
 10 doing a formal interview, and I believe it was down at  
 11 OPA. And I just, I only know it because I think there  
 12 were, there was some reference to it either in a meeting  
 13 or in passing, but I know that there was some, maybe Lisa  
 14 had mentioned it. But I think Lisa was helping Strzok, I  
 15 think Strzok was the one that was being interviewed, as I  
 16 recall.  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 18 [redacted] I don't think she was being  
 19 interviewed. But I think she was helping Pete prep for  
 20 the, for the interview. And I don't even know what outlet  
 21 it was for. But I just, I just have a recollection, a  
 22 vague recollection of them doing something, and I assume  
 23 it was with OPA's permission down in the OPA's formal  
 24 interview room. I assume it was completely sanctioned  
 25 (\*indiscernible 1:52:47). So, that's my only

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 Operations Unit. So that's about 100 folks. So, I don't  
 2 travel with the boss maybe but a third or half the time.  
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.  
 4 [redacted] So, so I don't, I'm just not in all  
 5 those meetings. I do run a section of people, so I just  
 6 don't hear a lot of the meetings that, that, hear a lot of  
 7 the conversations that are held probably.  
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 9 [redacted] Nor would I expect to. I'm not in  
 10 his office all the time.  
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But that, again, I think earlier  
 12 you had said that doesn't, I'm asking, it doesn't change  
 13 your testimony earlier that if that conversation and the  
 14 highlighted portions had been authorized, you would have  
 15 expected you would have heard that.  
 16 [redacted] I would, for sure. Yeah. I mean  
 17 this is -- yes. I would, I would have heard about that.  
 18 Because, you know, and again, I would not have had these  
 19 curious conversations with [redacted] about why, where is this  
 20 coming from? Why, you know, what are the leak  
 21 investigations? What, you know, if we're doing leak  
 22 investigations, I mean, it seems like if they, if they  
 23 authorized the use of this information, why do we have a  
 24 leak investigation?  
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

1 recollection.  
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you know what the topic of that  
 3 interview was?  
 4 [redacted] No. I suspect it was, I mean I  
 5 would have to assume it was Midyear or, or maybe it was  
 6 just some, some other discussion about Counterintelligence  
 7 Division at large and a much-more broader perspective of  
 8 it. But,  
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And can you place in time  
 10 approximately when that interview occurred?  
 11 [redacted] I mean, it's got to be late 2016,  
 12 early-2017 maybe.  
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 14 [redacted] And again, very broad. I just had a  
 15 recollection of that happening, but I don't know, again, I  
 16 didn't even see the interview.  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.  
 18 [redacted] And I don't know what outlet it went  
 19 to.  
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Other than that, are there any other  
 21 times that you're aware of Lisa Page being authorized to  
 22 engage with the media in any way?  
 23 [redacted] No. No. Again, not being in a lot  
 24 of those conversations she had with the Deputy, he may  
 25 have provided that. I would be suspicious of that claim.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2



1 I just can't, I just can't imagine the Deputy, you know,  
2 saying to anybody outside of Kortan I need you to go and  
3 talk to somebody about this. It just doesn't seem as the  
4 man that I know. It just doesn't seem appropriate.

5 [Redacted] Um-hmm.

6 [Redacted] We're at the part of our matter  
7 where we don't have any further questions. Is there  
8 anything else you'd like to add that you were going to say  
9 but we didn't give you an opportunity, or you just want to  
10 add on the subject?

11 [Redacted] No. But I just, I do apologize. I  
12 thought I brought the right books. This is my current  
13 book, so I clearly must have missed a book here, and it,  
14 so I will go back and look, and I will copy the portions  
15 and give them to Nancy, and we'll get them down here to  
16 you.

17 [Redacted] Yeah. I mean if, if you think  
18 there is stuff relevant there.

19 [Redacted] Yeah.

20 [Redacted] Sure.

21 [Redacted] Oh, and speaking of Nancy, I did  
22 have one more question on that.

23 [Redacted] Sure.

24 [Redacted] Can you tell us how you first became  
25 aware that Nancy was potentially conducting an

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 obviously. So I don't want you to think that I'm piling  
2 on, you know, to her. That's not my style. But I, it's  
3 just my observations.

4 [Redacted] Okay.

5 [Redacted] And my concerns.

6 [Redacted] We appreciate that, and again  
7 appreciate all your time and cooperation. Thank you so  
8 much. Off the record.

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

11 [Redacted] We're going back on record here at  
12 3:10 and continuing the interview of [Redacted] and the  
13 former Chief of Staff to Deputy Director McCabe. This  
14 time focused on questions around recusal, the allegations  
15 that we are investigating that, regarding his recusals  
16 from certain investigations. So, just one quick reminder  
17 in terms of the process. This is, this is continuing in  
18 an unclassified setting.

19 [Redacted] All right.

20 [Redacted] So if I ask you a question, just --

21 [Redacted] Okay.

22 [Redacted] -- it calls for classified  
23 information, let us know before you answer. When, when  
24 Mr. McCabe came on as Deputy Director, did you know if he  
25 was recused from any particular cases?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 investigation into leaks?

2 [Redacted] I think it was, you know, either a  
3 general sense, you know, in the, you know, that it, you  
4 know, just on the floor. I mean, you hear things that,  
5 you know, she's, she's doing something. Or it could have  
6 been a subject, subsequent conversation I had with [Redacted]  
7 now that I'm down in the Director's office, where we said,  
8 yeah, Nancy came and asked me, you know, who all has  
9 access to the deputy. And so, so I knew that she was  
10 doing something, but I didn't know to what end, and nor do  
11 I know if she's still doing it or if that has now been  
12 assumed by your office. So I, I don't know if those are  
13 still active or not.

14 [Redacted] All right. That's all I had.

15 [Redacted] Well, before we go off the record,  
16 it looks like exactly at 3 o'clock, I want to thank you  
17 very much for your time and cooperation.

18 [Redacted] Thank you.

19 [Redacted] After we -- go ahead.

20 [Redacted] I do want to add one thing. I did  
21 say a lot about Ms. Page today. And she is a, you know, I  
22 don't want to sound like she is a villain. But, you know,  
23 she's obviously a very talented person. I know Andy puts  
24 great trust in her, and she is a very, very smart person.  
25 And I think, you know, she's in a tough spot now,

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -1  
b7C -1

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

1 [Redacted] I did not.

2 [Redacted] Okay. When, when was the first time  
3 you were aware that there was a question that, around his  
4 recusal from a case or cases?

5 [Redacted] You know, I guess it would have  
6 been, I guess it would have been some discussions over  
7 the, over the email investigation. And --

8 [Redacted] Meaning the Clinton email  
9 investigation?

10 [Redacted] The Clinton email investigation,  
11 yeah. The email investigation. And, and you know, it's  
12 my, as I recall, I think that's what led to a discussion  
13 about his wife having run for office, which I was not  
14 aware of.

15 [Redacted] Okay.

16 [Redacted] And, you know, at the time I just  
17 thought, oh, that's interesting. And I also got the  
18 sense, and I've never asked him about his politics  
19 directly other than I think he's more of a, you know, a  
20 fiscal conservative, you know, policy conservative guy and  
21 more socially liberal. I always assumed he was more of a  
22 Republican, just in my view.

23 [Redacted] Um-hmm. Um-hmm.

24 [Redacted] And I thought, you know, I was like,  
25 I was always curious as to how those sort of divided

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

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b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

[Redacted]

# Interview

b6 -2  
b7C -2

## 12/05/2017

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-17-2018 BY [Redacted] NSICG

b6 -1  
b7C -1

263D-HQ-[Redacted]-21

b6 -1  
b7C -1



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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

December 5, 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 10:00 a.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

FOR THE WITNESS:

NONE

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



Page 2

I N D E X

EXHIBITS

| EXHIBIT NUMBER | PAGE NUMBER |
|----------------|-------------|
| None.          |             |

Page 4

1, under oath. Do you understand?

2 [redacted] I do.

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If you're ready we'll have you

4 sworn in and get started.

5 [redacted] Yes.

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can you raise your right hand,

7 please?

8 [redacted] Sure.

9 Whereupon,

10 [redacted]

11 was called upon by the United States Department of

12 Justice, Office of the Inspector General, to provide a

13 voluntary sworn statement and was duly sworn.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, great. Thank you. So,

15 we're going to jump into a document I believe you've seen

16 before. But we're going to ask a bunch of questions about

17 that because we've developed more information in the

18 course of our review. So the first document here is a

19 Wall Street Journal article from October 30th, 2016. Take

20 as much time as you want to look at that but you'll notice

21 what I am going to focus on mostly is on page eight to

22 nine. I've highlighted several, it looks like three

23 paragraphs there and that's where we're going to spend the

24 bulk of our discussion. But again, I want you to feel

25 like you can look at as much as you want.

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. 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 and Review Division, and in the Office of Inspector

5 General. And I'm here with Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), who is also an

6 investigative counsel with the Oversight and Review

7 Division. And this is an interview with [redacted]

8 Is that correct?

9 [redacted] Correct.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And you are currently [redacted]

11 [redacted] of the FBI, is that right?

12 [redacted] Correct.

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And we are -- well, first the date

14 is December 5th, 2017 approximately 10:00 a.m. We are in

15 the Oversight and Review Division conference room at 1425

16 New York Avenue, Washington, D.C. This is a voluntary

17 interview. You are a fact witness. We are reviewing

18 allegations of misconduct in connection with disclosures

19 of nonpublic information to the media and subsequent

20 statements related thereto. To protect the integrity of

21 our investigation we request that you don't disclose the

22 contents of what we discuss today. Is that okay?

23 [redacted] Yes.

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And as you know, our standard

25 practice is to record all interviews and have them taken

Page 5

1 [redacted] Sure. Do you think I should read

2 it just to refresh generally or do you think --

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah, why not?

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

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Why not?

6 [redacted] Okay.

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And I'll just stop the recording

8 just so --

9 [redacted] Okay.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- it's not dead space.

11 [redacted] Sure.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) At --

13 [redacted] I mean, I don't have to if you

14 think it's --

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, no. I think it's --

16 [redacted] I can carry on. I just --

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- better if you --

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

19 [redacted] Okay.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) It might bring good context back

21 to you.

22 [redacted] Okay.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So we're just going to stop the

24 recording at like 10:01 as [redacted] reads the exhibit,

25 the Wall Street Journal article, October 30th, 2016.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

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b7C -2

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b7C -2

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b7C -2



b6 -2  
b7c -2

1 [redacted] Okay.  
 2 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.  
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. We are back on the record  
 4 after just stopping for a moment to look at the Wall  
 5 Street Journal article October 30th, 2016 that we're going  
 6 to spend some time on today. I assume you've seen this  
 7 article before?  
 8 [redacted] Yes.  
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you see it when it came out at  
 10 the time?  
 11 [redacted] I'm sure that I did.  
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 13 [redacted] Yeah.  
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What was your reaction when you  
 15 saw that?  
 16 [redacted] I don't have a clear recollection  
 17 of the first time I read it or if it was brought to my  
 18 attention. Again, a story like this I definitely would  
 19 have read at the time. I don't recall my initial  
 20 reaction. I'm just trying to think, not having a clear  
 21 recollection of even when I saw it for the first time. I  
 22 don't know what my reaction was.  
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And specifically the highlighted  
 24 paragraphs. Let's just, that's where, again, as I  
 25 mentioned before we went off the record to look at the

b6 -2  
b7c -2

b6 -2  
b7c -2

b6 -2  
b7c -2

b6 -2  
b7c -2

1 start differently.  
 2 [redacted] In other words, I don't know if it  
 3 was brought to my attention. I don't think I --  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.  
 5 [redacted] Unless I read it in Eclipse. You  
 6 know, we get the Eclipse every morning. You know, could  
 7 have read it there. But they usually are the short  
 8 versions so usually then it's brought to my attention.  
 9 Either, you know, public affairs or somebody else brings  
 10 it to our attention.  
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall discussing this  
 12 article with Director Comey?  
 13 [redacted] I don't have a recollection of  
 14 specifically. Again, it's, I think it's something likely  
 15 we would have talked about.  
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 17 [redacted] I just, I can't have a clear  
 18 picture of a, either a one on one or a group discussion  
 19 but it certainly could have happened.  
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So we've been told that Director  
 21 Comey was very concerned when he saw this highlighted part  
 22 of the article and that he discussed it with you.  
 23 [redacted] It's very likely that he would  
 24 have. I mean, something, I just don't have a clear  
 25 picture of that discussion in my head.

b6 -2  
b7c -2

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b7c -2

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b7c -2

b6 -2  
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b6 -2  
b7c -2

1 document, that's where we're going to spend the bulk of  
 2 our time.  
 3 [redacted] Sure.  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What was your reaction when you  
 5 saw that portion of the article?  
 6 [redacted] I don't have a clear recollection.  
 7 I know, I guess I'm a little, I want to be careful because  
 8 now, having talked about this before, I just don't know --  
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 10 [redacted] -- what I felt then as to, you  
 11 know, having it --  
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 13 [redacted] -- drawn to my attention. Is  
 14 that --  
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure. I think --  
 16 [redacted] I'm aware that I might be --  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.  
 18 [redacted] -- conflating what I thought about  
 19 then versus what I've, you know, thought about later about  
 20 it.  
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, let me ask you this. When  
 22 you first, did you first see this article alone or were  
 23 you in the company of someone?  
 24 [redacted] I can't say. I don't know.  
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What was your reaction -- let me

b6 -2  
b7c -2

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b6 -2  
b7c -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) We were told that you said to Mr.  
 2 Comey, this is really bad. DOJ is going to be furious.  
 3 And you were really worried that Lisa Page went off the  
 4 reservation and disclosed this information to the media  
 5 without getting authorization from Deputy Director Andrew  
 6 McCabe. Does that sound at all familiar? Is that --  
 7 [redacted] I know that, so I don't, I know  
 8 that I was concerned. Again, I just don't know if it was  
 9 on the, I don't recall directly if it was one on one with  
 10 Director Comey. I don't recall if it was later on that I  
 11 had the concern. If it was sort of the day out. But I  
 12 knew once this sort of, this paragraph, having discussed,  
 13 again, I don't remember if it was the director or with a  
 14 group. I just don't remember those dynamics. That this  
 15 was a one on one conversation, right? Clearly the deputy  
 16 director was talking to a singular person. I believe it  
 17 was Matt Axelrod --  
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 19 [redacted] -- at the Department. You know, I  
 20 remember general discussions about concern that this was a  
 21 one on one conversation and how could that have come out.  
 22 And I do remember specific concerns that, you know, so it  
 23 was, so it had to have come from one of, one of those two  
 24 parties had to have told other people, right? Because it  
 25 was a one on one conversation. I remember then having

b6 -2  
b7c -2

b6 -2  
b7c -2



1 concerns at some point that, you know, it could have come  
2 from Mr. McCabe's staff and specifically Lisa Page. And I  
3 just don't remember now why that, I don't know if it was  
4 in the context of, you know, discussing this story or  
5 other events that were going on or just the media  
6 generally at that time.

7 [redacted] Uh-huh. Well, let me just, this  
8 is helpful and I just want to make sure I understand.

9 [redacted] Sure.  
10 [redacted] If any of these statements that we  
11 were told, if they're accurate from what you remember. Do  
12 you remember saying to then Director Comey, this is really  
13 bad, DOJ is going to be furious, with respect to the  
14 highlighted portions here?

15 [redacted] I don't remember saying that  
16 specifically but I could easily see myself having that  
17 reaction.

18 [redacted] So you have no reason to doubt  
19 that you said that?

20 [redacted] I have no reason to doubt that.  
21 Yeah.

22 [redacted] What about the next statement?  
23 And again, this is not a verbatim quote. It's just sort  
24 of the expression that --

25 [redacted] Sure.

1 you know, going down that sort of linear of concern that  
2 she didn't get authorization from the deputy director.  
3 And again, I'm not saying it's not accurate. I'm just, I  
4 don't recall it specifically.

5 [redacted] So it, so when the article comes  
6 out at that point in time do you have any knowledge  
7 whatsoever whether anyone at the FBI has authorized the  
8 disclosure of the one on one conversation between Andy  
9 McCabe and Matt Axelrod?

10 [redacted] No, I don't recall that at all.

11 [redacted] Okay. So then you have this  
12 concern. What happens next?

13 [redacted] It's hard to say because I don't  
14 remember the, I don't remember the actual conversation --

15 [redacted] Uh-huh.

16 [redacted] -- about it. I'm, you know, a lot  
17 of this stuff, as we, you know, discussed previously in  
18 interviews, a lot of stuff during that week. I mean,  
19 stuff was just happening so quickly. You know, I don't  
20 remember if Matt Axelrod contacted me about it, if I  
21 talked to Matt Axelrod about it. You know, if he indeed  
22 was upset about it. I'm just trying to --

23 [redacted] Well, yeah. Perhaps --

24 [redacted] -- think a little bit.

25 [redacted] Perhaps we could break down a

1 [redacted] -- you were really worried that  
2 Lisa Page went off the reservation and disclosed this  
3 information to the media without getting authorization  
4 from Deputy Director Andrew McCabe. Is that, do you  
5 recall saying that?

6 [redacted] I don't recall saying that. And  
7 again, I generally remember having that concern.

8 [redacted] Uh-huh.

9 [redacted] I don't remember verbatim, and I  
10 know you're not saying --

11 [redacted] Uh-huh.

12 [redacted] -- it's verbatim. But  
13 generally --

14 [redacted] But you were worried that Lisa  
15 Page may have disclosed this without obtaining any  
16 authorization from Andy McCabe to disclose this to the  
17 Wall Street Journal?

18 [redacted]  
19 [redacted] I don't remember that sort of chain  
20 specifically. I remember having that concern of the, you  
21 know, I guess of the people as you pull the circle out,  
22 right?

23 [redacted] Uh-huh.

24 [redacted] I remember having a concern that  
25 it could have been Lisa Page. I just don't remember that,

1 couple of pieces on how they unfold. So, this article  
2 comes out on a Sunday --

3 [redacted] Uh-huh.

4 [redacted] -- evening, or afternoon actually.  
5 I think it's first posted online around 3:30-ish.

6 [redacted] Okay.

7 [redacted] Would Mike Kortan have given you  
8 any advance notice? Is that his job to give you advanced  
9 notice of significant stories that are about to break  
10 involving the FBI?

11 [redacted] Sure, absolutely. Yes, he, you  
12 know, frequently does give us a head's up if he knows from  
13 the paper, from the reporters that an article is coming  
14 out.

15 [redacted] In sitting here today, in looking  
16 at this article would this qualify in your mind as a  
17 significant article that is consistent with the time Mike  
18 Kortan would give you a head's up about --

19 [redacted] Yes. Yes.

20 [redacted] And is Mike Kortan giving you a  
21 head's up just for your situational awareness or is it  
22 mainly to let you know to inform the director? How does  
23 that work?

24 [redacted] I can't say definitively on that.

25 I mean, I guess I would use my sort of judgment. I mean,

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b7C -1,2

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b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 he would keep, Mike would keep sort of leadership  
2 involved. Sometimes he would, you know, so he would come  
3 tell me about things. He reports to the deputy director  
4 so frequently he would go to the deputy director or the  
5 associate deputy director, you know, to talk about these  
6 things. Sometimes he would go right to the director but  
7 that was more infrequent. So then I would sort of decide  
8 whether, you know, either to tell the director from, you  
9 know, from Mike's head's up just depending on the context  
10 of it.

11 [redacted] So, was it Mike Kortan's practice  
12 that if he sent you information about an article in  
13 advance would he then take the additional step of  
14 informing the director or was he assuming that you, as  
15 [redacted] would do that for him?

16 [redacted] I can't say for sure. I would say  
17 he probably thought I would, I would say he probably  
18 thought I would tell the director, yes. Although I can't  
19 be sure. We didn't really have a set procedure for it.  
20 [redacted] Uh-huh. But that's been your  
21 assumptions and understanding?

22 [redacted] Yeah. I think I would, I think  
23 that's fair because I would normally, if I get a head's up  
24 from Mike, again, depending on what it is I would usually  
25 let the director know. I mean, it also depends on sort of

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1 Governor McAuliffe and so that created a big brouhaha the  
2 week earlier. Do you have any memory of that article?

3 [redacted] I do but from the previous --  
4 [redacted] Okay.

5 [redacted] -- interview that we had --  
6 [redacted] Sure.

7 [redacted] -- when --  
8 [redacted] Okay.

9 [redacted] Yeah.  
10 [redacted] So, the only reason I throw that

11 out there is, so I guess, I think that one came out sort  
12 of same sequence, Sunday, Monday. And so if you had  
13 gotten advance notice of an article like this that was  
14 sort of a fast moving development of an earlier story,  
15 again on a Sunday, are you going to contact the director?  
16 Are you going to wait until Monday morning?

17 [redacted] It would depend. I mean, I could  
18 easily see me contacting the director depending on, you  
19 know, what's in the story. If I think he needs a head's  
20 up, yeah.

21 [redacted] What about this one in particular?  
22 Is this one that you would contact him about?

23 [redacted] I think so. I don't remember,  
24 again, I'm conflating stories possibly. I do remember  
25 because there was a, I just can't remember if it was this

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b7C -2

1 when it happens. I mean, you know, if we're in the  
2 office, you know, like I said, sometimes Mike would go  
3 directly to the director. Or --

4 [redacted] Right.

5 [redacted] -- sometimes he would tell the  
6 deputy, you know. You know, then it would go up to the  
7 director. So I guess there's a number of different  
8 courses it could take. But --

9 [redacted] What about --  
10 [redacted] Oh, sorry.

11 [redacted] I'm sorry, I cut you off. Go  
12 ahead.

13 [redacted] No, no, I was just going to say  
14 but, yeah. I mean, there was definitely a lot of cases  
15 where he would tell me something and then I would let the  
16 director know, so.

17 [redacted] Uh-huh. What about sort of this  
18 article in particular, the October 30th, a fast moving  
19 development. You may be aware that, so the reporter here  
20 is Devlin Barrett. And he had written an article the week  
21 before on October 23rd-ish and this came online October  
22 23rd in the online edition. I think print edition was  
23 October 24th. Where it was mainly about Mr. McCabe's wife  
24 had ran for the Virginia Senate and received a lot of  
25 money from political action committees associated with

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b7C -2

1 one now, where we were concerned about the timeline of  
2 when, what it said about when the director was notified  
3 about the Weiner laptop.

4 [redacted] Oh.

5 [redacted] Am I conflating that with a  
6 different one or --

7 [redacted] I don't know. But I was going to,  
8 we don't need to get, I wasn't going to get too heavily  
9 into it. But if you want to see for reference the bottom  
10 here has the, this is the October 23rd article --

11 [redacted] That's the one from the week  
12 before?

13 [redacted] The week before where the FBI  
14 issued, and it's in there, a statement on the record about  
15 Mr. McCabe's role in the Clinton email --

16 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
17 [redacted] -- investigation and sort of what

18 his, when he first became deputy director and things like  
19 that.

20 [redacted] Got you.  
21 [redacted] So, did you want to look at that

22 or not?  
23 [redacted] I'm sorry. I lost the beat on the

24 question. You wanted to know if I gave him a head's up  
25 about this one?

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1 [redacted] No. I thought you were unsure if  
 2 you did and so --  
 3 [redacted] Oh, I'm sorry. Yes.  
 4 [redacted] And so if you wanted to look at  
 5 that one we can do that too.  
 6 [redacted] Yes, I'm sorry.  
 7 [redacted] Actually why don't we do that?  
 8 Let's --  
 9 [redacted] Yeah. No, I think that that's --  
 10 [redacted] I think it'll be good context.  
 11 So --  
 12 [redacted] Stop and read this one?  
 13 [redacted] Yeah.  
 14 [redacted] Yep.  
 15 [redacted] I will stop the recording at  
 16 10:20-ish.  
 17 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)  
 18 [redacted] Okay, back on the record. So I  
 19 was showing you a, the, an October 23rd article that  
 20 appeared in the Wall Street Journal by the same reporter,  
 21 which was essentially getting into Mr. McCabe's wife's  
 22 Senate campaign, PAC money she received from political  
 23 action committees associated with Governor McAuliffe. And  
 24 it addresses Mr. McCabe's role and oversight of I think  
 25 the Clinton email foundation or when he became deputy

1 when that story hit notifying the director? Came out on a  
 2 Sunday night, the October 23rd one.  
 3 [redacted] I don't have a specific  
 4 recollection. It's certainly, I think it's something I  
 5 probably, again, depending on what was going on and how  
 6 busy it was and the timing, I could see, I mean, because  
 7 it involved the deputy director I could see notifying the  
 8 director if he wasn't already, if I wasn't, if I didn't  
 9 think he was already aware. Or if we didn't have a head's  
 10 up, you know, for instance, the Friday before, you know, I  
 11 had discussed it in the office --  
 12 [redacted] I see.  
 13 [redacted] -- then I'm, you know. If I  
 14 thought he had no knowledge of it and it hit and I didn't  
 15 think he had otherwise seen it I could see me giving a  
 16 head's up to him.  
 17 [redacted] And so I wanted to show you this  
 18 one to juxtapose the October 30th one which comes out a  
 19 week later sort of expanding on some of the themes in the  
 20 earlier article. Just to make sure whatever you were  
 21 recalling wasn't --  
 22 [redacted] Oh.  
 23 [redacted] -- confusing the two.  
 24 [redacted] Yeah.  
 25 [redacted] And so the October 30th article,

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1 director. So, and the reason I just wanted to show you  
 2 that was we had been talking about, and I was trying to  
 3 get an understanding of, it's things break on a Sunday.  
 4 What your practice is on notifying the director, here then  
 5 Director Comey. And so sticking with the, well, we'll go  
 6 back I guess to the, let's talk a moment about the October  
 7 23rd article.  
 8 [redacted] Sure.  
 9 [redacted] First, do you remember that  
 10 article at all?  
 11 [redacted] I do.  
 12 [redacted] Okay.  
 13 [redacted] Yeah.  
 14 [redacted] And what do you remember about it?  
 15 [redacted] Mostly in the context, again, of  
 16 previous interviews --  
 17 [redacted] I see.  
 18 [redacted] -- where this has come up. You  
 19 know, I'm sure, again, I'm sure I read it at the time.  
 20 I'm sure it was discussed at the time. But my, when I  
 21 think about it I go back to previous interviews where we  
 22 talked about not to the reading of it.  
 23 [redacted] Sure.  
 24 [redacted] If that makes sense.  
 25 [redacted] Do you have any recollection of

1 that comes out on a Sunday.  
 2 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
 3 [redacted] Do you notify the director about  
 4 that one? Do you have any recollection about that?  
 5 [redacted] I can't, I'm a little bit, I'm  
 6 worrying that I'm conflating it with this one, again, that  
 7 talked about the director's, when he was briefed on the  
 8 laptops.  
 9 [redacted] I see.  
 10 [redacted] And that sort of chain of events.  
 11 And I just can't remember, I don't think it was this one  
 12 but I, now I'm confusing it.  
 13 [redacted] Okay. Okay. Well, circling back  
 14 to, where we started with some of this was sort of  
 15 advanced notice, Mike Kortan, how that works.  
 16 [redacted] Sure.  
 17 [redacted] Do you notify the director? And I  
 18 want to circle back to you had said that your concern,  
 19 focusing on the October 30th article, the highlighted  
 20 parts, that there's, the article discloses a one on one  
 21 conversation between Deputy Director McCabe. It doesn't  
 22 identify the senior department official but it's your  
 23 understanding that's Matt Axelrod?  
 24 [redacted] I believe so.  
 25 [redacted] Who was then the principal deputy

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1 attorney general?  
2 [redacted] Correct.  
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And why do you have that  
4 understanding?  
5 [redacted] I don't remember if I, again, I  
6 don't know if it comes from previous interviews or back at  
7 the time or, yeah, or back at the time. I remember a  
8 discussion, I can't remember if it was refreshed or  
9 original, about this conversation between the deputy and  
10 Matt Axelrod.

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b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
12 [redacted] That's my recollection.  
13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Were you, aside from this article  
14 did Mr. McCabe or anyone on his staff ever share with you  
15 the details of the August 12th call that's sort of  
16 summarized here before the article appeared?

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b7C -2

17 [redacted] I cannot recall. I can see it  
18 happening I just can't remember that specific  
19 conversation. I don't recall a one on one conversation,  
20 you know, whether it came up in a group or other briefing.  
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Now, in August when this happens,  
22 August 2016, this is a pretty, I mean, significant  
23 conversation, right? I mean, as described here --  
24 [redacted] Yep.  
25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Since you've been [redacted]

1 and focusing on the press as well, right, as we all did.  
2 I don't know if I would have had a, I don't know what my  
3 role would have been specifically on that, if it, if that  
4 makes sense. I don't know if I'm articulating that --  
5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No, I understand --  
6 [redacted] -- well.  
7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- what you're saying.  
8 [redacted] Yeah.  
9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And correct me if I'm wrong, it  
10 sounds like you're saying that you're not, operational  
11 issues are not necessarily a day to day matter  
12 something you need to be steeped in. Is that fair or no?  
13 [redacted] I think that's fair. I mean, I'm  
14 sorry, I don't want to sort of undersell my role but I,  
15 you know. Just the way I triage things --  
16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
17 [redacted] -- in this role, right? I mean,  
18 if something is being handled or something, say on the  
19 operational side, right? And I'm less pointing to this  
20 example. I'm just trying to give you --  
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
22 [redacted] -- a, you know. You know, if the  
23 deputy director is handling it as sort of an operational  
24 matter, right, I'd sort of put that in his lane, in his  
25 bucket. Does that --

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b7C -2

1 have you ever heard of a situation, other than as  
2 described here, where the deputy director is basically  
3 telling the then principal deputy attorney general, are  
4 you telling me to shut down a validly predicated  
5 investigation? Has a similar circumstance like that come  
6 up?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

7 [redacted]: Not to my recollection. You know,  
8 there's always any number of issues --  
9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
10 [redacted] -- happening in sort of certainly  
11 contentious conversations all over. But yeah, not, I  
12 can't recall any of that pattern like that.

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b7C -2

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So it seems like that's something  
14 you'd remember in August 2016. I mean, is that fair to  
15 say?

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b7C -2

16 [redacted] Yeah. It's hard to say. I mean,  
17 it, it's certainly significant.  
18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
19 [redacted] You know, just the way I bucket  
20 things in my role, right, the, you know, on that  
21 operational side of the house, which I continue this to  
22 be. Maybe that's the deputy director's lane, right? And  
23 while I certainly interact, you know, I'm [redacted]  
24 [redacted] and I know these things are going on all  
25 the time in I'm sure, I mean, conversations, right? The,

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
2 [redacted] Does that make sense?  
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.  
4 [redacted] Again, not, I'm really less  
5 talking about this one but just generally.  
6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But this seems like, just again,  
7 to push to, because I want to make sure we're --  
8 [redacted] Sure.  
9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- we've exhausted your thoughts  
10 on this.  
11 [redacted] Yeah.  
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And this seems like a pretty big  
13 deal in the sense of, a pretty significant disagreement  
14 between two high ranking officials that, even if you're  
15 not, if that's not in your lane the director would want to  
16 know about it just for the relationship purposes.  
17 [redacted] Yes.  
18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And that that would be, I mean,  
19 had you ever experienced something similar in a  
20 disagreement like that, again, since you've been chief of  
21 staff?  
22 [redacted] I mean, yes, we've, there's been a  
23 lot of contentious conversation, right? I mean, it --  
24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
25 [redacted] So I don't mean to be --

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b7C -2



1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No, no. I --  
 2 -- you know, flippant on it.  
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
 4 You know, that I, so I, as to  
 5 this, I mean, I don't have a specific recollection of  
 6 discussing this. But I could easily see it, yeah. So I  
 7 don't want to diminish it either. I could, I understand,  
 8 yeah, definitely significant. And it's something likely  
 9 that was discussed. I mean, I'm sure of it. I just don't  
 10 have a sense of, you know, from that August time to here,  
 11 where that was or who took it, you know.  
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, let me say it this way. I  
 13 think you're, I think we both, I think you've acknowledged  
 14 that it was a significant event.  
 15 Sure.  
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) It was a significant  
 17 investigation.  
 18 Yes.  
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) High profile, before the election.  
 20 All agree?  
 21 Yes.  
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If those details had been shared  
 23 with you before the article came out is it likely that you  
 24 would have read this and said, I remember hearing about  
 25 this at the time?

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b7C -2

1 No.  
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) With high ranking officials?  
 3 Yes.  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, is that why you felt it would  
 5 be a concern when you, I was sort of paraphrasing what we  
 6 understood you expressed to Director Comey. But is that  
 7 fair?  
 8 I think that's fair. Again, I  
 9 can't remember my initial read on it.  
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 11 Or if this was after a discussion  
 12 with folks and, you know, but I think that's fair. I  
 13 mean, any time, you know, any time communications are  
 14 either one on one or sensitive or declassified --  
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
 16 -- would be discussed it would be  
 17 problematic.  
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And again, here it was a high  
 19 profile investigation before the election --  
 20 I wouldn't even go, yes, that's  
 21 correct but I wouldn't even go that far. I mean, you're  
 22 talking about, you know, at the very basic level a  
 23 conversation between two high ranking officials, you know,  
 24 FBI and DOJ. I would, even if it wasn't a, you know, a  
 25 high profile case before the election I would be concerned

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1 Oh, at the time of the article?  
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes, before the article came out.  
 3 I think that's a fair assumption.  
 4 Again, I can't --  
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 6 I can't picture it here but I  
 7 think it's a fair assumption, yes.  
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 9 Yep.  
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But sitting here today you have no  
 11 specific recollection of Andy McCabe or anyone, or any  
 12 other FBI executive telling you about this conversation  
 13 and what happened?  
 14 I don't. I mean, I --  
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) including the director.  
 16 I don't. I mean, I, again, I  
 17 could say it's likely to have happened. I just, sitting  
 18 here I can't put a sort of place and time conversation to  
 19 it.  
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. I mean, the FBI typically  
 21 doesn't disclose this type of information to the media.  
 22 In your experience do they? I mean --  
 23 Correct.  
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- one on one private  
 25 conversations?

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b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 about it.  
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So then what do you, again, I, as  
 3 I understand you had some concerns about Lisa Page. Is  
 4 that right?  
 5 Yeah, that's my recollection.  
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So what did you do? Did you do  
 7 anything to follow up on it?  
 8 I don't know that I did. I  
 9 remember having those concerns generally but I don't think  
 10 I did anything to follow up on it.  
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I mean, did you think that the  
 12 deputy director just rolled this out? Or are you thinking  
 13 you have concerns about Lisa Page because this isn't  
 14 something the FBI typically does?  
 15 Yeah, I don't, so again, I don't,  
 16 I'm having trouble with this specific but the, you know,  
 17 at, or at the time I guess. I don't, I guess my  
 18 assumption would be it probably wasn't Mr. McCabe talking  
 19 about it, right? Just knowing the media and, right, it's  
 20 probably not Mr. McCabe going out and talking about the  
 21 conversation.  
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Because, for the reasons you  
 23 expressed earlier or different?  
 24 Well, I think, or the reason I  
 25 just explained. Just --

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Yeah.

2 [redacted] Just knowing, you know, knowing

3 how sort of the media works and, you know, it would be

4 unlikely that, you know, because I think in here it

5 doesn't, you know, according to a person familiar. I

6 don't know. I suppose it could have been him but I --

7 [redacted] Uh-huh.

8 [redacted] -- I don't remember thinking it

9 was either Mr. McCabe or Mr. Axelrod. That, you know, it

10 must have been somebody else and then thinking, okay,

11 where could it have, you know, come from besides them.

12 [redacted] And so you have concerns where,

13 beyond that. Do you express those concerns to Director

14 Comey?

15 [redacted] I don't remember if I did. Again,

16 I remember having the concern. I just don't remember, I

17 don't have a clear recollection of that. Possible,

18 certainly, in discussing it.

19 [redacted] And one of the things that you just

20 said was that in reviewing this it's possible that the

21 information could come from Andy McCabe. But you just

22 said, I don't remember thinking it was. Can you tell us

23 why that is?

24 [redacted] Well, just in the, again, I don't

25 have a clear recollection of my initial reading of it,

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 right? So, just to --

2 [redacted] Right. No, we can --

3 [redacted] Yeah.

4 [redacted] -- set that aside. I'm just --

5 [redacted] Yeah.

6 [redacted] -- saying, you know, what's your

7 basis for the statement that you just said?

8 [redacted] I think knowing, again, just

9 having read it again here and how it's worded, according

10 to a person familiar, right? And just knowing sort of how

11 the media works generally I would say it's, it would be

12 unlikely for one of those two participants to be sort of

13 the source of it. That's just me. I mean, I'm not

14 saying, I don't know how much to credit it or not but

15 that's how I sort of think about it.

16 [redacted] Okay.

17 [redacted] Yeah.

18 [redacted] And without tying you down in time

19 about --

20 [redacted] Sure.

21 [redacted] -- whether it was the first time you

22 read it or that afternoon or whatever, back in October,

23 early November --

24 [redacted] Uh-huh.

25 [redacted] -- when this article comes out do

1 you remember anyone else in the executive management there

2 at the FBI sharing with you concerns they may have had

3 about this conversation getting out?

4 [redacted] So, after the story came out?

5 [redacted] Uh-huh.

6 [redacted] I don't. I can't recall specific

7 conversations on it. I mean, it's, again, it's --

8 [redacted] And we're not looking for --

9 [redacted] It's likely, yeah.

10 [redacted] We're not looking for you to tell us

11 word for word.

12 [redacted] Sure.

13 [redacted] You know, we're just trying to get a

14 general impression. When this information came out was it

15 something that everybody accepted as information that was

16 within the plan that people were supposed to be releasing

17 to the media? Or is this the kind of thing that caught

18 people's attention and made them concerned that people

19 might be talking out of school to the media?

20 [redacted] I don't know. I'm just trying to

21 think --

22 [redacted] Okay, sure.

23 [redacted] If you'll --

24 [redacted] Take all --

25 [redacted] -- give me a minute. 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 just --

2 [redacted] Take all the time you need.

3 [redacted] -- to see if I can --

4 [redacted] Because that's really one of the

5 essential things we're trying to figure out about this.

6 [redacted] Sure. Yeah. You know, as we've

7 discussed in other interviews, I mean, these, you know,

8 again, these things are coming out so quickly, right? And

9 that's why I have a hard time. So for me in my role,

10 right, I sort of triage it, deal with it, and then move

11 on, right? And again, that's part of the problem I have

12 remembering a lot of the specifics, right, because it's,

13 you're just rolling from one thing to another. So I,

14 sitting here I can't think of concerns that were, you

15 know, specific conversations. I mean, I suppose I could

16 be refreshed, right, if you --

17 [redacted] Well, let me --

18 [redacted] Yeah.

19 [redacted] Go ahead.

20 [redacted] We were told, again, one of the

21 reasons we wanted to talk to you again is because, as I

22 mentioned earlier, we've developed some additional

23 information.

24 [redacted] Right.

25 [redacted] We were told that Mr. Comey

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2



1 expressed to you that he was very concerned about this  
2 highlighted paragraph.

3 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That he felt it would poison the  
5 relationship with DOJ. And why the hell is someone  
6 disclosing and discussing what the FBI is doing on an  
7 investigation? Is that right? I mean, I don't, do you  
8 have any recollection of that?

9 [redacted] I don't recall that specifically.  
10 I, you know, I could easily see it happening --  
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

12 [redacted] -- as he, you know, as we talk or  
13 if we're talking about this article and he expresses. So,  
14 yes, I could easily see him expressing that concern. I  
15 just, I don't remember that conversation.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you have any reason to doubt  
17 that account?

18 [redacted] No.

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

20 [redacted] No. Yeah.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And again, I think you may have  
22 said this already but I want to be sure. Were you aware  
23 that the details of the August 12th call that's discussed  
24 in the October 30th article would be included in the  
25 article before it was published?

1 possible. And again, if he was concerned I could see that  
2 being a natural question. Follow up with Mike Kortan.  
3 Follow up, you know, something like that.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall doing that?

5 [redacted] Follow up with DOJ. I don't. I  
6 don't.

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Is there any reason for Director  
8 Comey to have told us that? That he asked you to follow  
9 up?

10 [redacted] Is there any reason that, not that  
11 I can think of.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Well, let's walk --

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, I wanted to ask --

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

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You know, it sounds to me like  
16 during this time period things were happening very  
17 quickly.

18 [redacted] Oh, yeah. Yep.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What kind of notes do you take so  
20 that you can keep your duties and responsibilities  
21 straight when you're operating in that kind of  
22 environment?

23 [redacted] Sure. Not, I don't take, I'm just  
24 not a note taker. Again, I usually, my, I just triage and  
25 move, right. That's usually how I operate. You know, so

1 [redacted] I don't recall that specifically,  
2 no.

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So, no recollection of any  
4 discussions with anyone like Mike Kortan about this?

5 [redacted] I don't. Again, I mean, he  
6 frequently does have head's up and, right, and things like  
7 that, you know, where he'll share with us. You know, and  
8 so it's possible but I don't have a specific recollection  
9 on that.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did, and I think I asked you  
11 whether Director Comey asked you to do any follow up to  
12 find out who did this, right?

13 [redacted] I don't remember if you did.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Well, let's, I'll ask that.

15 [redacted] Yeah. I don't recall. No, I  
16 don't recall any discussions. I mean, it's possible that  
17 he did but I don't recall a specific conversation on that.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was that, is that something you  
19 think would have likely occurred?

20 [redacted] I guess it would depend. I mean,  
21 if, you know, if he had said he was very concerned about  
22 it and, you know, that could be a natural outgrowth of  
23 that. So, you had said was it likely to have occurred?

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes. Yeah.

25 [redacted] Yeah. I mean, I think it's

1 email is probably the closest thing to, you know, to do  
2 it. But you know, I usually action it and then --

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So you don't --

4 [redacted] -- move along.

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- keep a running punch list of  
6 things the director has asked you to take care of, for  
7 example?

8 [redacted] I do. You know, I'll make notes.  
9 Not, well, notes is the wrong word but, you know, just,  
10 you know, to do, right. And sort of check them off and  
11 then, yeah.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And do you keep those after the fact  
13 or what do you do with them?

14 [redacted] I don't. They're usually  
15 illegible so I just, you know, and just, you know, shred  
16 them usually.

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

18 [redacted] Yeah.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Because I, you know, I can't even  
20 envision all of the very many things that your job must  
21 entail.

22 [redacted] Yep.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But I imagine being organized and  
24 remembering what it is you're supposed to be doing from  
25 day to day would be extremely important.

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

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 right, you know. Again,  
2 but a lot of the, you know, again, the function is, right,  
3 just action, and action, action, right? And so I'm just  
4 constantly pushing this stuff out, right. And so it's,  
5 you know, it's usually taken care of very quickly if that  
6 makes sense, right?

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

8 [redacted] So, yeah.

9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Let me ask you this. Let's walk  
10 through sort of the series of events that day. So again,  
11 I started, we had, we started the article comes out  
12 Sunday.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

13 [redacted] Sure.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Monday, so that's October 31st.  
15 It's our understanding that there's usual, there's usually  
16 a director's Monday morning meeting. Is that right?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

17 [redacted] Correct. There's a, yes. There  
18 is a, I just, all the times have changed so I'll just --

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

b6 -2  
b7C -2

20 [redacted] I'll just talk about the meeting.

21 There's a --

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Director Comey's tenure.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

23 [redacted] Correct.

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

b6 -2  
b7C -2

25 [redacted] Yeah. So there's a, the deputy

1 Information and Operation Center.  
2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And that's not a classified  
3 acronym or anything --

b6 -2  
b7C -2

4 [redacted] It is not.

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

b6 -2  
b7C -2

6 [redacted] No. Yeah, it's basically our  
7 justice command center.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, sure.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

9 [redacted] That's where the --

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I've --

b6 -2  
b7C -2

11 [redacted] Yeah.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I've heard of that.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

13 [redacted] Same thing, yeah.

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

b6 -2  
b7C -2

15 [redacted] So the Monday morning meeting,  
16 October 31st. This article is already out there.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

17 [redacted] Uh-huh.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Mr. McCabe's there. You're there,  
19 right?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

20 [redacted] I don't remember specifically.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Should be?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

22 [redacted] I should be, yeah.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And the director's there?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

24 [redacted] Uh-huh.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Does anyone talk about this? Does

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 director and sort of the operational meeting first and  
2 then the director typically has a meeting.

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you attend the deputy director  
4 meeting?

5 [redacted] I do not.

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

b6 -2  
b7C -2

7 [redacted] Yeah. I mean, there's been  
8 occasions where I have but --

9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure. But not a standing?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

10 [redacted] Routinely, no.

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

b6 -2  
b7C -2

12 [redacted] And then the director's meeting,  
13 so it's most of that group from the deputy's meeting minus  
14 a couple folks. And then on Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
15 there is the DOJ meeting where, it used to be in SIOC. I  
16 just can't, I think it was still in SIOC at that point.  
17 Now it's at DOJ.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And that happens after the  
19 director's Monday morning meeting?

20 [redacted] On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

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

22 [redacted] Yep.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And can you tell us how you spell  
24 SIOC? Someone else brought that up.

25 [redacted] Oh, sure. S-I-O-C, Strategic

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 it come up? Do you recall talking with Mr. McCabe or  
2 there being a group discussion about it?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

3 [redacted] I don't recall specifically. I  
4 would say it's likely, especially if people were concerned  
5 or if it was sort of dominating the news. Or, you know,  
6 so Mike Kortan is --

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

b6 -2  
b7C -2

8 [redacted] -- that email. If he brought it  
9 up. So I --

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You mean meeting?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

11 [redacted] In the meeting, yep.

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

b6 -2  
b7C -2

13 [redacted] So I would say, you know,  
14 something like this, it's likely it came up. I just don't  
15 recall specifically that meeting.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And then there's a skinny down.  
17 Is that after the director's meeting?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

18 [redacted] Yes. If there's something, you  
19 know, it's usually sensitive investigations or, you know,  
20 a public corruption case, a terrorism case, a  
21 counterespionage case. People will ask to stay after to  
22 talk about it.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you always stay for those?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

24 [redacted] I usually do, yes.

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



b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Not always. There's some things  
 2 that I wouldn't be read into but the majority of the time  
 3 I would be there.  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So again, sticking with, on  
 5 October 31st, the morning thereof just the director's  
 6 Monday morning and the skinny down. We have this article  
 7 coming out on, where it's referencing disclosing the  
 8 details of a conversation between the deputy director and  
 9 the principal deputy attorney general about whether or not  
 10 a Clinton Foundation investigation is going to be shut  
 11 down. Do you have any recollection of that coming up?  
 12 [redacted] I don't recall it specifically.  
 13 Again, I would say it's very likely --  
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 15 [redacted] -- that it would have come up,  
 16 whether in the full meeting or the after, but I don't  
 17 recall.  
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Is that the type of issue that  
 19 would be an appropriate subject for those two venues?  
 20 [redacted] Certainly. So, in the director's  
 21 meeting, again, Mike Kortan's in there and he's usually,  
 22 he'll talk about sort of the topics of the day or stories  
 23 of the day and I could see this being one of them. So  
 24 yes, it would be appropriate. Yep.  
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you have any recollection of

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 skinny down --  
 2 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- on this day.  
 4 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can we hold that for one second?  
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.  
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) We'll get there in one second.  
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you have any recollection of  
 10 talking to Mr. McCabe during the director's meeting or the  
 11 skinny down about, or anyone talking to Mr. McCabe about  
 12 this article and what people thought and how this  
 13 happened?  
 14 [redacted] I don't. Again, I think it's, and  
 15 I'll say it again, I think it's something that likely was  
 16 discussed, right? Especially if there was a lot of  
 17 concern or, you know, if this had just come out. So I  
 18 would say likely, indeed very likely that it was  
 19 discussed. I just don't, I can't picture myself in that  
 20 room having a discussion.  
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If Mr. McCabe or Mr. Kortan had  
 22 said during that meeting, either the director's meeting or  
 23 the skinny down --  
 24 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- that they worked with a

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 anyone saying, how the hell did this happen? Or this is  
 2 great that this happened? I mean, this is a pretty big  
 3 deal. Again --  
 4 [redacted] Yep  
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- I'm just struggling to figure  
 6 out how, you know, what people's reactions are to this.  
 7 [redacted] Sure. You know, again, I, sitting  
 8 here I can't envision that meeting or a reaction either  
 9 way. You know, again, something that was likely  
 10 discussed. You know, especially if that, was that a  
 11 Monday?  
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.  
 13 [redacted] You know, especially if there was  
 14 a DOJ meeting coming up I could see --  
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) We're going to get to that --  
 16 [redacted] -- people saying, you know, we're  
 17 going to talk to, you know, we'll be over there with DOJ,  
 18 right?  
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
 20 [redacted] So I could see that coming up.  
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And in fact, it was a Monday.  
 22 [redacted] So, yeah.  
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. And we have heard from  
 24 others who we talked to that there was, in fact, a DOJ  
 25 meeting at SIOC after the director's meeting and 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 reporter to share this information to address concerns  
 2 about the allegations or attacking the credibility of the  
 3 FBI, is that something that you think you'd remember? The  
 4 deputy director or Mike Kortan saying yes, we worked to  
 5 disclose the details of this conversation, is that  
 6 something you'd remember? I mean, it's a pretty  
 7 significant disclosure, isn't it?  
 8 [redacted] Yeah, it's, I would say it's  
 9 significant. You know, again, I can't, I'm having  
 10 trouble, again, because I'm having trouble placing the  
 11 meeting, right, to even --  
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 13 [redacted] -- get that far.  
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And that's why I'm pushing you to  
 15 say --  
 16 [redacted] Sure.  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I understand that you've gone to  
 18 probably hundreds of these meetings.  
 19 [redacted] Yep.  
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And I completely recognize that  
 21 over the last year there's been a lot of challenging  
 22 important events so I fully recognize that too. At the  
 23 same time, again, we are talking about something that I  
 24 think you'd acknowledged earlier that it's not often, and  
 25 I don't think, I think you said you haven't seen another

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2



1 occasion where there's this dispute between senior high  
 2 ranking officials --  
 3 [redacted] Sure.  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- being disclosed in the media.  
 5 And so, a private one on one conversation. And so I'm  
 6 pushing you to say, not to say but to think about --  
 7 [redacted] Yep.  
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- if that had been discussed in  
 9 any shape or form do you think you'd remember that? That  
 10 if someone said hey, we felt this was appropriate to  
 11 address issues that the article was taking on?  
 12 [redacted] I think it's fair to say it would  
 13 be memorable. I think, you know, there's a number of  
 14 instances where, you know, OPA will be working, you know,  
 15 on stories and things like that, right? So I don't want  
 16 to conflate, I, so I guess the short answer is I don't, I  
 17 still don't have a specific recollection of, to the direct  
 18 question of, you know, we worked specifically on this  
 19 story to address those concerns. I don't recall that.  
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And then the next part of it is  
 21 had that been said do you agree that that would be a  
 22 memorable event because of the nature of the disclosure?  
 23 [redacted] I think so. Not, yes. Not  
 24 necessarily the nature of the, well, when you say nature,  
 25 I get concerned, again, because it's discussions between,

1 that's why I can't, I recognize what you're saying. And  
 2 so I'm trying to push it a step farther, which is you  
 3 can't remember the meeting and so if this had come up do  
 4 you think you would have remembered the meeting? Being  
 5 someone saying, we worked with the Wall Street Journal and  
 6 disclosed this private one on one conversation.  
 7 [redacted] I would say yes. It's probable,  
 8 yes, I think that's accurate.  
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And then [redacted] was going  
 10 to segue into --  
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure. I --  
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- after this it's our  
 13 understanding that there --  
 14 I don't know, were you going to hit something  
 15 first before --  
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, let me --  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- the SIOC meeting?  
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Let me ask you this. So, I mean,  
 19 getting ready to go down to SIOC --  
 20 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
 21 [redacted] -- to have this meeting --  
 22 [redacted] Yep.  
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- there's this mention of a private  
 24 conversation in the Wall Street Journal between two of the  
 25 people that are going to be sitting in the room with 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

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 that's what you mean, not necessarily the content.  
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
 3 [redacted] That's what you're --  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) We're, I mean, when I, so  
 5 specifically when I said nature of the disclosure I was, I  
 6 believe I was, well, I was sticking with just what you had  
 7 articulated earlier when we began. That hey, look, it  
 8 doesn't matter high profile, before the election or not --  
 9 [redacted] That's right.  
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- you have a private call between  
 11 two high ranking officials, FBI, DOJ.  
 12 [redacted] That's right.  
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so that's --  
 14 [redacted] Right.  
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That's why I was sticking with  
 16 that concept.  
 17 [redacted] Yeah.  
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you think that, so you'd agree  
 19 that that would be a memorable event that you, for you?  
 20 [redacted] Yes. Although I, yes, I think it  
 21 would be, it would be important, right? You know, in  
 22 theory it'd be memorable but again, I, you know, not  
 23 having the, not remembering the actual meeting, right, I  
 24 just --  
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. And so I get that. And so

1 [redacted] Yep.  
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm wondering if before you headed  
 3 down to SIOC, there was any reaction from Andy McCabe. And  
 4 I'm wondering really specifically kind of just two ends of  
 5 the spectrum.  
 6 [redacted] Sure.  
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right? Because I can envision a  
 8 person could react by saying oh, well I authorized that.  
 9 [redacted] Yeah.  
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) It was necessary to do and I've got  
 11 the authority to do that.  
 12 [redacted] Right.  
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I can envision on the other hand  
 14 that a person would say no, it was a surprise to me. I  
 15 have no idea --  
 16 [redacted] Yeah.  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- how that got out.  
 18 [redacted] Or this is an outrage and how did  
 19 this get out there?  
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) It's an --  
 21 [redacted] Yeah.  
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) We got to figure this out.  
 23 [redacted] Yeah.  
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right? Do you remember a reaction  
 25 from him that tended towards either end of that spectrum?

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

b6 -2  
b7C -2



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

1 And take as long as you --  
 2 [redacted] Sure.  
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- need to to answer that --  
 4 [redacted] Yeah.  
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- question.  
 6 [redacted] Yeah, I don't, you know, I go back  
 7 to I don't know, I can't place myself in that room.  
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. But I'm not --  
 9 [redacted] I know how -- ;  
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm not asking you to place --  
 11 [redacted] Yeah.  
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- yourself in the room or to tell  
 13 me any direct quotes --  
 14 [redacted] Yep.  
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- or anything.  
 16 [redacted] Just the --  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm just wondering as a result of  
 18 this --  
 19 [redacted] Yep.  
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- you interact with Deputy Director  
 21 McCabe on a fairly frequent basis.  
 22 [redacted] Yes.  
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you remember him having a  
 24 reaction either of those directions with respect to seeing  
 25 his name in this article in this way?

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] I don't. I don't. I think the,  
 2 you know, like we've talked about, I could see discussing  
 3 it in the big meeting.  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 5 [redacted] I could see discussing it in  
 6 the --  
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Is the big meeting the director's  
 8 meeting?  
 9 [redacted] The director's meeting, yep. I  
 10 could see it coming up sort of, you know, just hey, this  
 11 article is out here. You know, I could see it coming up  
 12 if there was a skinny down, you know. You know, a small  
 13 group after that in preparation for the DOJ meeting in  
 14 SIOC. I could see --  
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 16 [redacted] You know, I could see  
 17 conversations on the margins even, right, of those  
 18 meetings. You know, again, knowing that you're going to  
 19 walk down and, you know, see, you know, DOJ at the very  
 20 least, right. Even if you didn't know who it was at that  
 21 point. I could easily see that happening but I don't, to  
 22 your point --  
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
 24 [redacted] -- I can't see clearly a  
 25 reaction --

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Because --  
 2 [redacted] -- right now.  
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- I know from our prior discussions  
 4 that doing the things that Director Comey needed you to  
 5 do --  
 6 [redacted] Yep.  
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- and meeting his needs was  
 8 something you took very, very seriously.  
 9 [redacted] : Yep.  
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And I'm imagining that an article  
 11 like this, unless he knew about it ahead of time --  
 12 [redacted] Unless he, Director Comey?  
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Unless he, Director Comey, knew this  
 14 was coming --  
 15 [redacted] Yep.  
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- could put him in a bind --  
 17 [redacted] Meaning that this information is  
 18 out there for --  
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah, he has to go walk into a  
 20 meeting with Matt Axelrod --  
 21 [redacted] Sure.  
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- and this has just been published.  
 23 [redacted] Sure.  
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah. I'm wondering if you  
 25 remember, you know, without saying in what context or on

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 what day or direct quotes or anything like that, I'm  
 2 wondering if you remember him having that concern or  
 3 articulating that concern or discussing that concern with  
 4 you.  
 5 [redacted] Yeah. I just don't. I could, but  
 6 again, I could, I would say it's not only likely, it's  
 7 probable that he did. I just --  
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 9 [redacted] I can't, you know,  
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And why do you put that in the  
 11 probable category?  
 12 [redacted] Just because of the, for all the  
 13 reasons you articulated, right. I mean, if you have a,  
 14 you know, a story out there that, you know, talks about,  
 15 you know, number one, talks about the Bureau, right?  
 16 Number two --  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 18 [redacted] -- talks about sort of  
 19 interactions between the Bureau and DOJ, right? That, you  
 20 know, could be sensitive, right? Then I would say it's,  
 21 you know, and in light of, you know, going down to the  
 22 SIOC meeting where you're going to talk to, I could see  
 23 him being concerned about that.  
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 25 [redacted] And especially it being the deputy

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2



1 director.  
 2 [redacted] Right. Right. Do you have a  
 3 present recollection as we sit here today of him being not  
 4 concerned? Because some of the people that we've talked  
 5 to have said no, you know. Director Comey was told about  
 6 this and he was fine with it.  
 7 [redacted], no, I don't have a clear  
 8 recollection that he was unconcerned or fine with it. No.  
 9 [redacted] No?  
 10 [redacted] Un-unh.  
 11 [redacted] Is that something that you would put  
 12 in the probable category the way that you just did?  
 13 [redacted] That he was unconcerned with it  
 14 of --  
 15 [redacted] That he was unconcerned. This was  
 16 the kind of thing that, no, it was fine to do.  
 17 [redacted] No. No. I would say no, he  
 18 wouldn't, certainly wouldn't condone it. Whether he, I  
 19 think he would have been concerned about it, yeah.  
 20 [redacted] Okay. And why?  
 21 [redacted] Again, just because it's, you  
 22 know, it's FBI. It's deputy director of the FBI. And  
 23 because it's talking about communications with the  
 24 Department of Justice, right, that shouldn't be out there.  
 25 [redacted] Right.

1 [redacted] Right.  
 2 [redacted] Yep.  
 3 [redacted] But that the FBI had chosen not to  
 4 confirm that.  
 5 [redacted] Help out.  
 6 [redacted] And the first mention that we've  
 7 ever seen of it is in --  
 8 [redacted] Is here?  
 9 [redacted] -- is here.  
 10 [redacted] I don't remember that. I don't  
 11 remember that, that concern being articulated with this.  
 12 So you're taking this to shut down, you know, him saying  
 13 valid predicate as a --  
 14 [redacted] A confirmation.  
 15 [redacted] -- a confirmation of the  
 16 investigation? I don't recall that. I'm just not sure if  
 17 it had been --  
 18 [redacted] Okay.  
 19 [redacted] -- disclosed before. I don't  
 20 think it had been. But I don't remember that concern  
 21 about this.  
 22 [redacted] Okay.  
 23 [redacted] Yeah.  
 24 [redacted] was just wondering if you  
 25 remembered the director being concerned about, I

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 Do you mind if I ask about what the director had  
 2 said to Congress in July?  
 3 [redacted] Sure, go for it.  
 4 [redacted] Okay.  
 5 Because one of the things that we understand was  
 6 going on as part of this dynamic is, and you may remember  
 7 this, the director went to Congress in July.  
 8 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
 9 [redacted] And one of the questions he was  
 10 asked specifically was about whether there was an  
 11 investigation into the Clinton Foundation. Do you  
 12 remember that?  
 13 [redacted] I don't. If you refresh I'm sure  
 14 I could, I know he was asked --  
 15 [redacted] Okay.  
 16 [redacted] -- about it on the Hill. I  
 17 just --  
 18 [redacted] Right.  
 19 [redacted] Yeah.  
 20 [redacted] Because the sense that we got from  
 21 reading the reports was that the FBI was not probably  
 22 confirming the assistance of any kind of investigation  
 23 into the Clinton Foundation. That there was speculation,  
 24 this was a time of great speculation.  
 25 [redacted] Sure.

1 specifically did not want this confirmed in the press and  
 2 now here it is.  
 3 [redacted] Yeah, not, no, not as to this. I  
 4 don't remember that.  
 5 [redacted] Okay.  
 6 [redacted] So --  
 7 [redacted] Should we talk about --  
 8 [redacted] Let's stick with --  
 9 [redacted] -- the DOJ meeting?  
 10 [redacted] Yeah.  
 11 [redacted] Yeah.  
 12 [redacted] So, you want to --  
 13 [redacted] Go ahead.  
 14 [redacted] We were mentioning the DOJ  
 15 meeting.  
 16 [redacted] Sure.  
 17 [redacted] And sort of leading towards it.  
 18 Do you remember the interaction between Matt Axelrod and  
 19 Mr. McCabe at the time?  
 20 [redacted] I don't. I, well, again, this is  
 21 where I worry about through the interviews where I'm --  
 22 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
 23 [redacted] -- no projecting. I remember it  
 24 being tense out, again, I'm worried that that was  
 25 refreshed in the previous interview.

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 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) All right. Well, let me --  
 2 [redacted] And I --  
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Go ahead.  
 4 [redacted] So, Matt and I worked, Matt  
 5 Axelrod and I worked together very frequently. So, you  
 6 know, talked frequently, you know, and as I said earlier,  
 7 had a number of, you know, extremely heated exchanges. So  
 8 it was not, so the sort of temperature range, it would be  
 9 hard to remember a, you know, so a specific instance where  
 10 he was, you know, extremely upset in this meeting. I'm  
 11 just saying that for illustrative purposes, right? It  
 12 would be hard to differentiate that for me I think.  
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) From --  
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Are you telling us he runs hot?  
 15 [redacted] No. He has, he was, he's, we, he,  
 16 I think he, I think we both valued the relationship and we  
 17 had a free flowing, he would not hide anything, right.  
 18 So, maybe. No, but he would not hide his feelings with  
 19 me. We'll just, which I appreciated.  
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You were about to say it would be  
 21 hard to differentiate between --  
 22 [redacted] You know --  
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- him, being upset from --  
 24 [redacted] From just, from another instance  
 25 perhaps where --

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) I see.  
 2 [redacted] Right.  
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well --  
 4 [redacted] In other words, you know --  
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Let me ask you this. Would it be  
 6 fair to say at that meeting, because it sounds like maybe  
 7 there was more than one occasion during that week, that  
 8 period, that month. Would it be fair to say on October  
 9 31st when your FBI contingent, who goes again? You go,  
 10 the director, the deputy director?  
 11 [redacted] Right. I'm just trying --  
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Just as a matter of standard  
 13 that's --  
 14 [redacted] I'm just trying to remember  
 15 because it's --  
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.  
 17 [redacted] -- it's now changed.  
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.  
 19 [redacted] And so it, it changed when the  
 20 administration changed. So at that time when it was at  
 21 SIOC it was the director, the deputy director. And you  
 22 know, I was not going routinely to SIOC.  
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 24 [redacted] That's interesting. Now I'm just  
 25 thinking that. This is actually through, so when I became

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 [redacted] I adopted the practice that [redacted]  
 2 [redacted] so I used to go, let me step back. When I was  
 3 [redacted] I sued to go to SIOC. When I became  
 4 [redacted] I stopped going largely to SIOC and my  
 5 [redacted] went, along with our [redacted] And I would  
 6 only go periodically. And then I started going again when  
 7 the administration changed. So I'm not even sure that I  
 8 was there --  
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So --  
 10 [redacted] -- at that meeting --  
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm sorry, I cut you off. Yeah,  
 12 October 2016 are you as a matter of routine practice going  
 13 to the SIOC meetings or no?  
 14 [redacted] I don't think I was at that point.  
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 16 [redacted] Yeah. No, I'm just trying to, now  
 17 that I'm piecing it all back together.  
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So who, the [redacted]  
 19 [redacted] would have gone?  
 20 [redacted] Yeah. So the --  
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Who was that?  
 22 [redacted]  
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 24 [redacted] Yeah. And our [redacted] was  
 25 [redacted]

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2



1 chiefs of staff, the AG's counsel for national security,  
 2 who was Denise Cheung, the, some folks from the deputy  
 3 staff. Oh, that's right, the DAG staff I should say.  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.  
 5 [redacted] Like I think Tashina Gauhar.  
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 7 [redacted] And then some NSD folks. So  
 8 George Toscas, Stu Evans Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C).  
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did Matt Axelrod routinely go to  
 10 these meetings?  
 11 [redacted] Yes. Right. I'm sorry, I said  
 12 chief of staff, didn't I?  
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 14 [redacted] Yeah. So, at that time it was the  
 15 AG's chief of staff and the PADAG.  
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 17 [redacted] That's right, because I don't  
 18 think there, the DAG's chief of staff did not go at that  
 19 time.  
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 21 [redacted] You're right.  
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, whether you were there or not,  
 23 do you recall either personally observing or receiving an  
 24 account from someone from the FBI who attended that Matt  
 25 Axelrod was frosty or scowling the entire meeting? Does

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.  
 2 [redacted] I don't. I mean, again, very  
 3 likely.  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you remember whether in the  
 5 context of conveying that information to Director Comey  
 6 his reaction was well, that's to be expected but this had  
 7 to be done? Or whether Director Comey's reaction was, you  
 8 know, this has poisoned that relationship and never should  
 9 have happened?  
 10 [redacted] I'm sorry. Relaying to Director  
 11 Comey a conversation with Matt Axelrod?  
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.  
 13 [redacted] That he called me and that --  
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) He called you and, you know.  
 15 [redacted] No, I don't remember specifically.  
 16 The, this had to be done, it doesn't sound like him,  
 17 Director Comey.  
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Why is that?  
 19 [redacted] It's, those words, you know, it  
 20 just, it doesn't sound like him.  
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 22 [redacted] Poisoned the relationship sounds  
 23 more like him. Again, I don't know if you're expressing a  
 24 thought or verbatim, just as I think of --  
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No, I'm --

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 stick out in your mind?  
 2 [redacted] It does but I, I'm pretty sure  
 3 that was, that I was told that in a previous interview.  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 5 [redacted] I'm placing that more recent than  
 6 the meeting.  
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 8 [redacted] Boy, I wish I could remember if I  
 9 was at that meeting or not. Because that --  
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall having any direct  
 11 conversations with Matt Axelrod on this?  
 12 [redacted] I don't but I'm certain it's  
 13 something that we would have talked about.  
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.  
 15 [redacted] Just because of the nature of our  
 16 interaction.  
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So you wouldn't doubt it if we  
 18 were told that you said to Director Comey that Axelrod  
 19 called and was furious that someone disclosed his private  
 20 conversations with Mr. McCabe?  
 21 [redacted] I could see that, yes.  
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you have any specific  
 23 recollection though as you're sitting here today about  
 24 that?  
 25 [redacted] I do not.

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] -- Director Comey, yeah.  
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm thinking about thoughts --  
 3 [redacted] Yeah.  
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- you know? I'm trying to --  
 5 [redacted] Yeah.  
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- gauge from what you can remember  
 7 about all of this. If Director Comey seemed okay with the  
 8 fact that this information had gotten out --  
 9 [redacted] Yeah.  
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- or if Director Comey seemed to  
 11 think that this was a problem.  
 12 [redacted] I don't remember specifically. I  
 13 mean, part of the problem too is that Director Comey, much  
 14 like Director Chris Wray, doesn't get like, he's not,  
 15 there's no yelling. There's no, right. So it's hard to,  
 16 it's even hard for me to decipher like is he furious or is  
 17 he, right. And could be for others as well, right? So  
 18 that's why to, without recalling the specific conversation  
 19 or even to generalize is very hard to, you know. In other  
 20 words, if Director Comey was yelling and throwing books he  
 21 was so mad, that I would remember, right. But it's  
 22 usually more nuanced, right.  
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh. Is what you're telling us  
 24 he's just not the kind of guy that gets mad and throws  
 25 books?

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] Correct. That's right, yeah.  
2 [redacted] Yeah. No, I'm just trying to get  
3 from you some read if you can remember about this period  
4 in time of what the director's reaction was to seeing this  
5 private conversation in print.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

6 [redacted] Yeah.  
7 [redacted] And you know, you spend more time  
8 with the director than a lot of folks.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

9 [redacted] Yes.  
10 [redacted] We're hoping you may have a  
11 recollection one way or the other.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

12 [redacted] Yeah, and I'm really struggling.  
13 And, you know, partly for the reasons I talked about in  
14 terms of how I triage things. But also, you know, just  
15 remembering this period, right. We're in between the two  
16 letters, right. I mean, there's just so much going on at  
17 that time.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

18 [redacted] And for the record, we know what  
19 you're saying, but you're talking about the two  
20 notification letters to Congress about restarting the  
21 Clinton --

b6 -2  
b7C -2

22 [redacted] Correct.  
23 [redacted] -- email investigation?  
24 [redacted] That's right.  
25 [redacted] Right.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 [redacted] That's right.  
2 [redacted] And we recognize that and that's  
3 one of the reasons why we are pushing on some issues  
4 because we want to make sure we have an absolute  
5 understanding

b6 -2  
b7C -2

6 [redacted] Sure.  
7 [redacted] And to see what is consistent with  
8 what we've heard or what may not be.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

9 [redacted] Sure.  
10 [redacted] Based on your interfacing with all  
11 these issues.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

12 [redacted] Absolutely.  
13 [redacted] I want to tick off some names to  
14 make sure, again, that we've exhausted this.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

15 [redacted] Sure.  
16 [redacted] This would be either before or  
17 after the conversation, I'm sorry, before or after the  
18 article came out.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

19 [redacted] The, okay, this --  
20 [redacted] October 30th, right.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

21 [redacted] The October 30th, got it.  
22 [redacted] So Mike Kortan.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

23 [redacted] Uh-huh.  
24 [redacted] It's my understanding from earlier  
25 today that you don't recall discussing this article. And

1 again, my questions are solely confined to --  
2 [redacted] Yep.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

3 [redacted] -- the highlighted parts where the  
4 details of a private one on one conversation on the  
5 Clinton Foundation investigation, with those details  
6 between Mr. McCabe and Mr. Axelrod are being disclosed in  
7 print in the Wall Street Journal. Do you recall any  
8 conversations with Mr. Kortan about that, either before or  
9 after the article comes out and the immediate aftermath?  
10 [redacted] I can't place a specific  
11 conversation either before or after. But again, would be  
12 likely that we would have discussed. You know, certainly  
13 after and if he had information that this was coming out  
14 then before.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

15 [redacted] What about [redacted]? Well,  
16 what is his role in comparison to Mr. Kortan? How do they  
17 differ?

b6 -1  
b7C -1

18 [redacted] He is. I don't know what his  
19 formal title is. Might be [redacted] or something  
20 along those lines in the press office. So he operates, I  
21 don't know if he's on the executive staff there. But he,  
22 so Mike Kortan is the assistant director and I don't know  
23 where. I don't know if [redacted] reports directly to him or to  
24 Mike's secretary --

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

25 [redacted] --

b6 -1  
b7C -1

b6 -2  
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, you're  
2 right. [redacted] sorry. Mike Kortan is the assistant  
3 director. [redacted] I believe, is on his sort of  
4 executive staff type role. Maybe like [redacted]  
5 But I don't know if [redacted] reports directly to Mike  
6 Kortan or to his section chief.

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

7 [redacted] What role did [redacted] serve  
8 for Director Comey?

b6 -1  
b7C -1

b6 -2  
b7C -2

9 [redacted]: I, so he was in, they worked  
10 together previously.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

11 [redacted] They, Comey and [redacted]?

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

12 [redacted] Correct, yep.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

13 [redacted] Okay.

b6 -2  
b7C -2

14 [redacted] They, I know Director Comey had  
15 [redacted] pull articles or, you know, track news  
16 stories and things like that that he would send to him.

b6 -1,2  
b7C -1,2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

17 [redacted] Why did he did that?

b6 -2  
b7C -2

b6 -2  
b7C -2

18 [redacted] I think because of his comfort  
19 level with him and that he would, you know, and he was  
20 just a very thorough person. That practice started, I  
21 actually didn't know he was doing it at first. And one of  
22 the things I asked Director Comey, I said, we can make  
23 sure it's going through the sort of OPA chain, right.  
24 That it's, you know, that OPA is fully looped in on there  
25 because, you know, it could be duplicate in a lot of ways.