

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

March 8, 2018

**To: Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary**

Fr: Democratic Staff

Re: Interview Summary of Uranium One “Confidential Informant” William Campbell

When Republicans announced their decision to re-investigate debunked claims relating to Uranium One and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, they cited allegations by a former FBI “confidential informant.” For example, on October 22, 2017, Rep. Ron DeSantis appeared on *Fox News* to announce this investigation based on “explosive” new evidence from the confidential informant demonstrating how Secretary Clinton masterminded a plan to orchestrate the unanimous decision in 2010 by all nine member agencies of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) regarding Uranium One. Rep. DeSantis claimed:

We have the money that went to Bill Clinton for the speech, the half a million dollars. Millions of dollars to the Foundation from sources connected with Uranium One. And then you have the approval of the deal on the CFIUS board, which Hillary Clinton was a member of, in 2010. So you do have the quid, you have the quo. This informant, I believe, would be able to link those two together.¹

During his interview, Rep. DeSantis also stated: “I’ve been able to speak with the confidential informant that helped the FBI uncover this bribery scheme. I’ve spoken with his attorney, and this informant wants to tell his story.”²

On February 7, 2018, Republican and Democratic staff from the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence conducted a four-hour interview of William Douglas Campbell, who publicly identified himself as the FBI confidential informant.

¹ *America’s News HQ*, Fox News (Oct. 22, 2017) (online at <http://video.foxnews.com/v/5621831993001>).

² *Id.* See also Letter from Chairman Charles E. Grassley, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, to Victoria Toensing, Attorney, diGenova & Toensing, (Oct. 18, 2017) (online at www.grassley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/constituents/2017-10-18%20CEG%20to%20Victoria%20Toensing%20%28Uranium%20Interview%20Request%29.pdf) (requesting an interview with the “confidential informant” as “critical to the Committee’s oversight of the Justice Department and its ongoing inquiry into the manner in which CFIUS approved the [Uranium One] transaction”).

Since Republicans refused multiple Democratic requests for a transcript of this interview, this memo provides a summary of Mr. Campbell's statements. It also includes a summary from briefings the Committees received from the Department of Justice.

As the summary indicates, Mr. Campbell has significant memory and credibility issues. He provided no evidence of a *quid pro quo* involving Secretary Clinton or the Clinton Foundation and no evidence that Secretary Clinton was involved in, or improperly influenced, CFIUS review of the Uranium One deal.

Background Briefings from Department of Justice

Senior officials from the Department of Justice conducted unclassified briefings for Republican and Democratic staffs on the House Oversight and Intelligence Committees and Senate Judiciary Committee on the activities of an individual, whom we understand to be William Douglas Campbell, during the investigation and prosecution of Vadim Mikerin. Mr. Mikerin is a former Russian official with a subsidiary of Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation known as Tenex.³

During the briefings, Justice Department officials confirmed that career attorneys initially planned to build their case against Mr. Mikerin based on evidence provided by this individual. However, they told Committee staff that they began to have "serious credibility concerns" because of "inconsistencies" between the individual's statements and documents they obtained as part of the investigation.

After interviewing the individual and reviewing the documents they had obtained, prosecutors determined that there was a "high chance" that he had engaged in illegal activity earlier than he initially disclosed—and that he had concealed that fact from the government.

As a result, Justice Department officials working the case began to have "serious concerns" with using the individual as a witness. They "assessed" that the individual "would not present as a good witness" and they "did not want to rely on him at trial." Because these career attorneys could not trust this individual, they decided instead to pursue alternate charges against Mr. Mikerin that would not rely on his testimony.

During the House briefing, Justice Department officials stated that it was a "godsend" that they had another avenue to charge Mr. Mikerin that relied on evidence other than this individual's testimony. In 2015, Mr. Mikerin was sentenced to 48 months in prison for money laundering and violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.⁴ Justice Department officials confirmed that they do not plan to use the testimony of this individual in any future prosecution.

³ The briefing for the Senate Judiciary Committee took place on November 28, 2017. The briefing for the House Oversight and Government Reform and Intelligence Committees took place on December 15, 2017. In preparing for the interview of Mr. Campbell, Democratic Staff of all three Committees compared notes from those briefings and confirmed that the Justice Department provided substantially the same information in both briefings.

⁴ Department of Justice, *Former Russian Nuclear Energy Official Sentenced to 48 Months in Prison for Money Laundering Conspiracy Involving Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Violations* (Dec. 15, 2015) (online at www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-russian-nuclear-energy-official-sentenced-48-months-prison-money-laundering-conspiracy).

Most importantly, Justice Department officials explained to the Committees that this individual never provided any evidence or made allegations regarding Secretary Clinton or the Clinton Foundation. They stated unequivocally: “at no point did [the individual] provide any allegation of corruption, illegality, or impropriety on Clinton, the Clinton Foundation, President Clinton, the Uranium One deal, or CFIUS.” They also confirmed that there were “no allegations of impropriety or illegality” regarding Secretary Clinton in any of the documents they reviewed.

Summary of Mr. Campbell’s Interview

- During his interview with Republican and Democratic staff from the three Committees, Mr. Campbell identified no evidence that Secretary Hillary Clinton, President Bill Clinton, or anyone from the Obama Administration took any actions as a result of Russian requests or influence.
- Mr. Campbell had no knowledge about the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), explaining that he “looked on Google to see what CFIUS was about” after all nine member agencies unanimously concluded that the Uranium One deal did not present any unresolved national security concerns.
- When asked why he believed the CFIUS process had been improperly influenced, Mr. Campbell was unable to point to anything to support his claims other than the fact that CFIUS allowed the Uranium One deal to go through.
- When asked whether he had any evidence that Russian influence on the Clintons affected CFIUS’s review of the Uranium One deal, Mr. Campbell stated that “that was outside my pay grade” and that the topic was “not my bailiwick.”
- When asked to explain his claim of Russian influence, Mr. Campbell said that Tenex officials bragged about “influence from Moscow” over the Clintons.
- Mr. Campbell conceded that he “did not take seriously” these comments at the time and considered them to be “vodka-arrogant talk” by “individuals involved in a criminal enterprise.”
- Mr. Campbell stated that Mr. Mikerin and a senior Tenex official, Sergey Polgorodnik, told him they spent \$3 million hiring a lobbying firm, APCO, to influence the Clintons and U.S. policy and that they expected APCO to use a portion of the \$3 million to provide in-kind support for the Clinton Global Initiative.
- Mr. Campbell said he believed that APCO sought “meetings at Commerce” and other “federal agencies” and “requested meetings with Secretary Clinton,” but he also stated, “I don’t know if that ever came to fruition.”
- Mr. Campbell conceded that he was unaware of anything APCO had done or whether any specific meetings had occurred, and he did not explain the basis for his belief that APCO sought those meetings.

- Mr. Campbell did not recall telling his FBI handlers about any statements regarding attempts to influence the Clintons.
- APCO issued a public statement denying any connection between its work for Tenex and its pro-bono work for the Clinton Global Initiative: “This volunteer work began in 2007, three years before any discussion with Tenex, and continued until 2016, five years after the Tenex engagement ended. These engagements were unrelated and any suggestion that they were connected is a deliberate falsehood.” The statement noted that “the four senior staff on the Tenex project included two former Bush Administration officials and a former staff member for a Republican member of the Senate.”⁵
- Mr. Campbell could not recall telling his FBI handlers that Tenex had hired the lobbying firm APCO and its alleged purpose, although he said he thought it was important enough that he “should” have shared it.
- Mr. Campbell identified no evidence of any “quid pro quo” involving the Clintons, as Rep. DeSantis claimed.
- When asked if he had any evidence to support Rep. DeSantis’ claim that President Bill Clinton received a \$500,000 speaking fee as part of a “quid pro quo,” Mr. Campbell could not recall any individual ever mentioning the \$500,000 speaking fee.
- Mr. Campbell stated that Russians he knew as part of his work with Tenex told him that a 2005 trip with Bill Clinton and Clinton Foundation donor Frank Giustra was part of an effort to get restrictions lifted on the U.S. uranium market while acquiring significant amounts of uranium.
- Mr. Campbell could not recall ever mentioning the 2005 trip to his FBI handlers.
- Mr. Campbell stated that Rod Fisk, who was then an American contractor working with Tenex officials, told him that “Clinton influence was going to assure” the approval of the Uranium One deal. Mr. Fisk died in 2011.
- Mr. Campbell could not recall ever mentioning Mr. Fisk’s claim to his FBI handlers.
- Mr. Campbell recalled being upset when he learned that CFIUS approved the Uranium One sale and expressing concern to his FBI handler. When he asked his FBI handler how it was possible that CFIUS approved the Uranium One sale when the FBI knew that Rosatom was engaged in criminal conduct, he claimed his FBI handler replied, “Ask your politics.” Mr. Campbell said he did not know what the FBI handler meant by that statement and did not ask any other questions about the issue.

⁵ Jonathan Winer, *Chris Steele’s Inside Man at State Dept, Was Exec at Firm Working for Clinton Global Initiative*, Breitbart News (Feb. 26, 2018) (online at www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2018/02/26/jonathan-winer-chris-steeles-inside-man-state-dept-exec-firm-working-clinton-global-initiative/).

- Mr. Campbell claimed he was told that his information was “going upstairs” to senior FBI officials and that he assumed that Robert Mueller or Andrew McCabe was aware of the information he provided, but he never spoke directly to Mr. Mueller or Mr. McCabe.
- Mr. Campbell claimed that, at some point during his multi-year relationship with the FBI, Mr. Campbell’s handlers told him that information he had provided had been important enough to be included in the President’s Daily Brief. Mr. Campbell did not recall what specific information he had provided that the FBI handlers were praising.
- Mr. Campbell had severe problems recalling details throughout the interview.
- Mr. Campbell’s written statement explained: “I find that today there are times when I remember things very clearly and there are times when my memory is hazy. When I remember, I do so with certainty. When I am hazy, I usually can review documents or my notes, which helps my recall.”
- Mr. Campbell provided notes and documents, but none included evidence of a “quid pro quo” or any illegal action on the part of Secretary Clinton, President Clinton, the Clinton Foundation, or the entities and individuals involved in the CFIUS process who reviewed the Uranium One deal.
- Mr. Campbell expressed frustration that the FBI allegedly promised that he “would be made whole” at the end of his work with them, but that he “lost in excess of half a million dollars.”
- Mr. Campbell’s written statement claimed that the FBI paid him insufficiently. It stated that the FBI presented him “with a check for just over \$50,000 and thanked me for my work.” It also stated, “While I was grateful, the amount represented only about a tenth of what I had spent.”
- Mr. Campbell said he believed the kickback extortion payments he made while working with the FBI—which were requested by Mr. Mikerin and laundered through financial institutions in Latvia, Greece, and Cyprus—should have been repaid to him, but the FBI blocked him from suing to recover \$500,000 from Mr. Mikerin and others.
- The Justice Department expressed concerns about Mr. Campbell’s lawsuit to seek \$500,000 in a letter on August 4, 2016, which stated that “the allegations in the Complaint are contrary to certain facts they have developed during their investigation; your prior requests for reimbursement from the federal government cannot be completely verified; and you received payments from TENEX before you were authorized to do so by the federal government.”