

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

March 13, 2018

General John F. Kelly  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear General Kelly:

I am writing to request documents relating to John McEntee, President Trump's personal assistant, who was fired and immediately rushed out of the White House yesterday because of an unspecific security issue, according to multiple press reports.

I have been warning for more than a year about the White House's deficient background check process—as well as specific officials who have been granted access to our nation's most closely guarded secrets despite derogatory information known to White House officials—but you have stonewalled congressional oversight efforts and refused to provide any documents requested by me or Chairman Trey Gowdy.<sup>1</sup>

Today, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Mr. McEntee, a close, long-serving aide to President Trump who was “a constant presence at Mr. Trump's side for the past three years,” “was escorted out of the White House on Monday.” According to this report, he “was removed from the White House grounds on Monday afternoon without being allowed to collect his belongings,” and he “left without his jacket.” Mr. McEntee reportedly “indicated to colleagues that it was an issue in his background.”<sup>2</sup>

You have admitted publicly that you are in possession of information that I have requested. You have stated publicly that your review of the White House's security clearance process revealed “a couple spreadsheets worth of people” at the White House who maintained

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings to Chairman Trey Gowdy, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 9, 2018) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2018-03-09.EEC%20to%20Gowdy%20re.%20Subpoena%20Request%20after%20WH%20SC%20Response.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> *Trump's Personal Assistant is Fired*, Wall Street Journal (Mar. 13, 2018) (online at [www.wsj.com/articles/trumps-personal-assistant-is-fired-1520945928](http://www.wsj.com/articles/trumps-personal-assistant-is-fired-1520945928)). See also *Longtime Trump Aide Fired Over Security Clearance Issue*, CNN (Mar. 13, 2018) (online at [www.cnn.com/2018/03/13/politics/john-mcentee-white-house-security-clearance/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2018/03/13/politics/john-mcentee-white-house-security-clearance/index.html)).

interim security clearances nine months into President Trump's tenure.<sup>3</sup> You also stated that at least 35 officials were inappropriately given top secret clearances.<sup>4</sup>

This recent report about President Trump's personal assistant is just the latest indication that the process for vetting White House employees for security issues is seriously flawed. The White House's ongoing obstruction of congressional oversight appears to be an attempt to conceal from the American people pervasive and widespread dysfunction inside the White House, which directly threatens our nation's security.

### **Request for Information**

For these reasons, I request that you produce, by March 27, 2018, the following documents and information:

1. Mr. McEntee's SF-86 application;
2. all documents Mr. McEntee was required to complete as a condition of White House employment, including but not limited to supplemental SF-86 disclosures and forms for internal White House vetting;
3. the FBI's final investigative report on Mr. McEntee and summaries of all interviews conducted;
4. all documents and communications referring or relating to the White House's vetting of Mr. McEntee, including any notes from vetting interviews and draft or final vetting memoranda;
5. all documents and communications, including with you, referring or relating to the FBI's investigative report or findings on Mr. McEntee, discussions about his access to the White House campus or sensitive and classified information, and his continued employment at the White House;
6. documents sufficient to show all White House employees who have been granted interim security clearances since the 2016 election; and
7. all documents and communications referring or relating to any White House official who resigned or was terminated due to a criminal investigation, failure or inability to obtain a security clearance, or any other reason.

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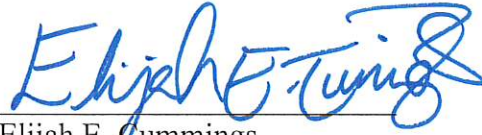
<sup>3</sup> *John Kelly Acknowledges He Mishandled Accusations about Rob Porter*, New York Times (Mar. 2, 2018) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2018/03/02/us/politics/john-kelly-rob-porter.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/02/us/politics/john-kelly-rob-porter.html)).

<sup>4</sup> *John Kelly Says Resignation of Top Aide Rob Porter Was Mishandled*, Wall Street Journal (Mar. 2, 2018) (online at [www.wsj.com/articles/john-kelly-says-resignation-of-top-aide-rob-porter-was-mishandled-1520019797](http://www.wsj.com/articles/john-kelly-says-resignation-of-top-aide-rob-porter-was-mishandled-1520019797)).

General John F. Kelly  
Page 3

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Janet Kim of the Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform