

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

March 28, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to respectfully request that you issue a subpoena to compel the Department of Defense (DOD) to produce documents it has been withholding from Congress relating to extremely troubling reports that a banker named Stephen Calk may have made loans of up to \$16 million to President Donald Trump's campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, in exchange for promises to name him Secretary of the Army.

Last month, numerous press accounts reported that the bank Mr. Calk heads, Federal Savings Bank, provided up to \$16 million in loans to Mr. Manafort "as part of a quid pro quo arrangement to secure Mr. Calk a job in Mr. Trump's Administration."¹

According to these reports, from late 2016 to early 2017, "Mr. Calk was placing calls to the Pentagon and specifically to Army headquarters, asking for briefings to obtain information and prepare himself for a possible job." In addition, according to these reports, "Mr. Calk's overtures raised questions among military leaders as to how to respond."²

Although Mr. Calk ultimately was not given a position with the Department, reports that he was being considered for a high-level and highly sensitive national security position within the Trump Administration as part of a *quid pro quo* with Mr. Manafort raise serious concerns that, completely apart from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, warrant scrutiny by Congress.

¹ *Mueller Examines Manafort Loans*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 21, 2018) (online at www.wsj.com/articles/mueller-examines-manafort-loans-1519259125). See also *Mueller Asking if Manafort Promised Banker White House Job In Return For Loans*, NBC News (Feb. 21, 2018) (online at www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/mueller-asking-if-manafort-promised-banker-white-house-job-return-n849916); *Paul Manafort Got \$16 Million in Loans After the Election. Mueller Finds That Very Interesting*, Vox (Feb. 21, 2018) (online at www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/21/17036634/paul-manafort-sealed-charges).

² *Id.*

On February 27, 2018, we sent a letter requesting that DOD produce the following documents:

- (1) all documents referring or relating to Mr. Calk within the custody, control, or possession of the Department of Defense or any of its components, including but not limited to written or oral communications regarding a potential position within the Department or information requested by Mr. Calk;
- (2) all documents referring or relating to written or oral communications regarding Mr. Calk or personnel decisions at the Department between the Department or any of its components and Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, or any other individuals affiliated or connected with staff for President Trump's campaign;
- (3) all documents referring or relating to policies or guidance regarding alleged requests for assistance by Mr. Calk while seeking a position within the Department or requesting information from the Department; and
- (4) all documents referring or relating to any action considered or taken in response to Mr. Calk's alleged requests.

Our letter also requested a briefing from DOD officials on these matters. To date, DOD has not produced any of the requested documents or information, and has not provided a timeline for when it intends to produce the documents we requested.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request that you issue a subpoena compelling DOD to produce, by April 11, 2018, all of the documents we requested in our letter in February. If you decide not to issue this subpoena yourself, then we ask that you place this matter on the agenda for our next regularly scheduled business meeting so all Committee members will have the opportunity to vote on a motion for this subpoena.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member



Stephen F. Lynch
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security

cc: The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security