

UNITED STATES SENATE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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INTERVIEW OF: :

DAVID E. WADE :

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Room SD-342 and via Webex
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.
Monday, August 3, 2020
1:10 p.m.

INTERVIEW OF DAVID WADE

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MAJORITY EXHIBITS	MARKED
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. FOLIO: All right. Good morning, everyone, or good
3 afternoon. This is a transcribed interview of Mr. David
4 Wade, being conducted by the Senate Committee on Homeland
5 Security and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee
6 on Finance. This interview was requested by Chairman Ron
7 Johnson and Chairman Charles Grassley, as part of the
8 Committees' investigation of whether there are any actual or
9 apparent conflicts of interest or any other wrongdoing with
10 regard to the Obama administration's Ukraine policy or
11 Burisma holdings, as well as related matters.

12 On December 18, 2019, Chairmen Grassley and Johnson
13 requested Mr. Wade's appearance for a voluntary transcribed
14 interview and certain categories of records. In response to
15 counsel, Mr. Richard Sauber, we were notified that there
16 were no responsive records for the categories of requested
17 materials. And this is a voluntary interview of Mr. Wade.

18 Mr. Wade, can you please state your full name for the
19 record?

20 MR. WADE: Dave Eccles Wade.

21 MR. FOLIO: It is very difficult for us to hear you.
22 Ms. Gray, are you able to hear Mr. Wade?

23 MR. WADE: Can you hear me now? Can you hear me now?
24 Let me see if there's a way to turn up the volume at all.

25 MR. FOLIO: Do you have a headset, Mr. Wade?

1 MR. WADE: I do not. Is that better?

2 MR. FOLIO: Mr. Wade, sorry. So there's the volume on
3 your computer, but if you look on the WebEx platform there
4 is a drop-down called Communicate. And if you click on that
5 there's--the second down is "speaker, microphone, and
6 camera." Just make sure all those, both the speaker and
7 microphone are turned up to 100 percent.

8 MR. WADE: Let me look.

9 [Pause.]

10 MR. WADE: Is that any better? Is that better?

11 Does it make sense for me, for volume-wise, to call in
12 to the audio from my phone rather than the computer?

13 Can you hear me?

14 MR. FOLIO: I can hear you very lightly. It sounds
15 like the problem is with the reporter, Ms. Gray.

16 MR. WADE: Okay. Are we okay for now? Can you hear me
17 okay?

18 MR. FOLIO: You're pretty faint. Just kind of maybe
19 just like--

20 MR. WADE: Should I--would it be helpful for me to dial
21 in from a landline? Would that help with the mic, or no?

22 MR. FOLIO: The answer I got was perhaps, if you would
23 like to try quickly.

24 MR. WADE: Let me give that a shot. Hold on one
25 second.

1 MR. FOLIO: You will probably have to mute your
2 computer then.

3 MR. WADE: Yep.

4 [Pause.]

5 MR. FOLIO: Sir, can you please state your full name
6 for the record?

7 MR. WADE: Sure. It is David Eccles Wade.

8 MR. FOLIO: Mr. Wade, my name is Joseph Folio. I am
9 the Chief Counsel for the Homeland Security and Governmental
10 Affairs Committee. I am going to now introduce the staff in
11 the room with me. For Chairman Johnson's staff I am joined
12 by Scott Wittmann, Brian Downey, Sarah Smerling, and Will
13 Sacripanti. And from Chairman Grassley's staff I will let
14 Josh introduce them.

15 MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Hi, Mr. Wade. My name is Josh Flynn-
16 Brown. I am Deputy Chief Investigative Counsel for Chairman
17 Grassley. Today I am joined here by my colleague, Quinton
18 Brady.

19 MR. FOLIO: Staff for Ranking Member Peters, please
20 introduce themselves.

21 MR. SCHRAM: I am Zack Schram. I am the Chief Counsel
22 for Ranking Member Peters. I am joined by Soumyalatha
23 Dayananda, Roy Awabdeh, and Alan Kahn.

24 Mr. Wade, the minority's participation today is not an
25 endorsement of this investigation. As the Ranking Members

1 have said publicly, we believe this investigation advances
2 Russian disinformation and election interference efforts.
3 Chairman Johnson's own public comments acknowledge that this
4 investigation is at least partially targeted at influencing
5 voters. The Committee should not facilitate foreign
6 interference in our 2020 election.

7 We are conducting this interview remotely, because we
8 are in the midst of a pandemic that has created an
9 extraordinary public health crisis in the United States.
10 The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has
11 jurisdiction over pandemic preparedness and response.
12 Ranking Member Peters believes this investigation is a
13 misuse of Committee resources that does not advance the
14 health, safety, or economic security of Americans,
15 consistent with our Committee's mission.

16 We have a right and a responsibility to be here, and we
17 will do our best to ensure that you are treated fairly, that
18 the record is accurate and complete, and that the national
19 security interest of the United States is protected.

20 I'll note also that we have just learned that the
21 majority, over the weekend, has provided exhibits to the
22 witness, and that those exhibits were not provided to the
23 minority. Contrary to the Committee's practice, not in the
24 interest of truth-seeking, and not respectful of your time,
25 as it will now force us to fumble in real time to try to

1 follow along. So that is contrary to the Committee's
2 practice and I regret that it will influence your time here
3 today.

4 MR. FOLIO: Before I turn it over to Ranking Member
5 Wyden's staff, just a few points. First, with regard to the
6 speech that Zack reads into the record at every interview, I
7 will just note that we disagree with his characterization of
8 the investigation and how the Committee has been spending
9 its time. Chairman Johnson has addressed this publicly
10 about the time and effort dedicated to, among other things,
11 the pandemic. But this investigation is also important work
12 and part of the oversight that this Committee does.

13 Zack also mentioned the fact that we had provided
14 documents to Mr. Sauber, counsel for Mr. Wade, this weekend.
15 As we explained separately, but now apparently this has to
16 be on the record, we provided them to Mr. Sauber because of
17 the extenuating circumstances, namely that the State
18 Department had sent the documents to Mr. Sauber by mail.
19 Mr. Sauber explained that he is currently in a location
20 where mail is often delayed, and he raised the prospect of
21 having to delay the interview for today, which would have
22 resulted in additional fees that the Committee would have
23 paid for, as well as scheduling difficulties, trying to
24 rearrange schedules.

25 So given those unique circumstances, we provided the

1 documents to Mr. Sauber electronically on Sunday. With
2 regard to why we have been more circumspect than typical to
3 share information widely in this investigation is because
4 our investigation has been the victim of a number of leaks,
5 leaks about sensitive requests that the Committee has made,
6 the majority Chairman has made, and specifically with regard
7 to you, Mr. Wade, in fact, literally I think hours after we
8 confirmed with the minority the interview date and time for
9 you, there were press reports, in fact, about you
10 interviewing.

11 So although that is correlative, we do not know for
12 certain but leaks have been a problem for not only this
13 investigation but our desire to speak with you. So that's
14 why we have taken the steps that we have taken.

15 MR. SCHRAM: Joe, the call is coming from inside the
16 house. We have learned of the scheduling of interview from
17 the press before you have even informed us of it, before we
18 even would have had the ability to know about scheduling.
19 So you should check inside the house.

20 And if your theory is that you can't provide us with
21 copies of information that you're using during an interview,
22 that we will have contemporaneous access during an
23 interview, because of a fear of leaks, I'm not sure how the
24 timing of that makes--that seems to be an excuse and not in
25 the interest of respecting the witness' time or ours.

1 MR. FOLIO: Thanks, Zack.

2 All right. I'm going to turn to Ranking Member Wyden's
3 staff to introduce themselves.

4 MR. BERICK: This is Dave Berick. I'm the Chief
5 Investigator for the Democratic staff on the Senate Finance
6 Committee. I am accompanied by Dan Goshorn, Michael Osborn-
7 Grosso, and Josh Heath.

8 MR. FOLIO: I also want to take the opportunity to
9 allow the State Department folks who are joining us to
10 introduce themselves please.

11 MR. THOMAS: --of being in western Massachusetts on the
12 farm. But I personally posted those by priority mail on the
13 day I received the signed NDA, which I had been asking for
14 for over a week.

15 MR. FOLIO: Is that you, Ken Thomas, from State
16 Department Legal Advisor's Office.

17 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

18 MR. BERICK: So is there some point--this is Dave
19 Berick--so is there some point to the NDA issue? I assume
20 it's been resolved.

21 MR. THOMAS: Well, honestly, it wasn't resolved in the
22 sense that I got it signed, but it turns out that my
23 personally--and my personally paying for Priority Mail to
24 send it to western Massachusetts was inadequate. And I want
25 it to be clear that the inadequacy was not a function of the

1 State Department.

2 MR. FOLIO: Thanks, Ken, for clarifying. I think you
3 know everyone is operating in good faith here, trying to
4 make this happen. We took the steps we took and here we
5 are. Thankfully we are able to keep this on schedule.

6 I will now proceed to explain how the interview will
7 occur. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not apply to
8 any of the Committees' investigative activities including
9 transcribed interviews. The way questioning will proceed is
10 that we will alternate between the majority and minority
11 staff, each taking one hour. The majority staff will begin.
12 The minority staff will then follow up with their hour, and
13 we will rotate back and forth until there are no more
14 questions.

15 During the interview we will do our best to limit the
16 number of people who are directing questions at you, Mr.
17 Wade, during any given hour. That said, from time to time,
18 a follow-up question or clarifying question may be helpful,
19 and if that's the case you may hear from other staff around
20 the virtual table. I will ask anyone doing so to please
21 their time so as not to interrupt others, and to interject
22 slowly so we can make sure we understand who is asking the
23 question.

24 Ms. Irene Gray, the reporter, is going to create a
25 verbatim record of what we discuss today. With that in

1 mind, Mr. Wade, it is important that you respond to our
2 questions verbally. The reporter cannot record properly
3 nonverbal responses or gestures. Do you understand?

4 MR. WADE: Yes.

5 MR. FOLIO: We encourage witnesses that appear before
6 the Committee to freely consult with counsel. Do you have
7 counsel present with you today?

8 MR. WADE: Yes.

9 MR. FOLIO: And for the record, counsel, can you please
10 introduce yourself.

11 MR. SAUBER: Yes. This is Richard Sauber of the law
12 firm of Robbins Russell. I represent Mr. Wade. Our
13 consultation may be cumbersome given the circumstances of
14 doing this when we are in all different locations, but I
15 want to thank everyone in advance for their forbearance if
16 Mr. Wade and I have to go off into another room. But we
17 will do our best to limit those opportunities, and if we
18 need to do them, keep them to a short duration.

19 So thanks for your flexibility, and we are ready to go.

20 MR. FOLIO: Great. Thank you, Mr. Sauber.

21 Mr. Wade, we want you to answer our questions in the
22 most complete and truthful manner possible, so we are going
23 to take our time. If you have any questions or do not
24 understand what we've asked just let us know. We would be
25 happy to clarify or explain further. Do you understand?

1 MR. WADE: Yes.

2 MR. FOLIO: This interview is unclassified, so if the
3 questions call for any information that you know to be
4 classified please state that for the record, as well as the
5 reason for classification. And then once you have
6 clarified, to the extent possible, please respond with as
7 much unclassified information as possible. If we need to
8 have a classified session or follow up later, that can be
9 arranged. Do you understand?

10 MR. WADE: Yes.

11 MR. FOLIO: It is the committee's practice to honor
12 valid common law privilege claims as an accommodation to a
13 witness or party when those claims are made in good faith
14 and accompanied by sufficient explanation so that committees
15 can evaluate the claim. When deciding whether to honor a
16 privilege, the committee weighs its need for the information
17 against any legitimate basis for withholding.

18 This interview is occurring without prejudice to any
19 future discussions with committees, and we reserve the right
20 to request your participation in future interviews or to
21 compel testimony.

22 Mr. Wade, if you need to take a break, please let us
23 know. We will ordinarily take a five-minute break at the
24 end of each one-hour session, but if you need to take a
25 break before then or you need to confer with counsel, just

1 let us know. All right?

2 MR. WADE: Yes. Will do.

3 MR. FOLIO: Mr. Wade, you are required to answer
4 questions before Congress truthfully. Do you understand
5 this?

6 MR. WADE: Yes.

7 MR. FOLIO: This also applies to questions posed by
8 congressional staff in an interview. Specifically, 18 USC
9 Section 1001 makes it a crime to make any materially false,
10 fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in the
11 course of a congressional investigation. So this statute
12 applies to your statements made here today. Do you
13 understand?

14 MR. WADE: Yes.

15 MR. FOLIO: Mr. Wade, is there any reason that you are
16 unable to provide truthful answers to the committee's
17 questions today?

18 MR. WADE: No.

19 MR. FOLIO: Finally, we ask that you not speak about
20 what we discuss in this interview with anyone else outside
21 of who's here in the room today in order to preserve the
22 integrity of our investigation. We also ask that you not
23 make copies or otherwise share exhibits that we are
24 presenting to you. Do you understand and agree to those
25 terms?

1 MR. SAUBER: Let me just interrupt. We have agreed to
2 destroy the documents that you gave us after we're finished.
3 We hear what you're saying about not discussing the issues
4 or the subject matter outside of the interview, and let's
5 leave it at that, if you don't mind.

6 MR. FOLIO: Okay. So reserving the right to discuss as
7 you see necessary?

8 MR. SAUBER: We're reserving our rights under the
9 Constitution to do whatever the hell we please, and we hear
10 your request. And we acknowledge it. Thanks.

11 MR. FOLIO: All right.

12 Mr. Wade, do you have any questions before we begin the
13 interview?

14 MR. WADE: Yeah.

15 MR. FOLIO: All right. At this point, I'm going to
16 turn the interview over to my colleague, Mr. Scott Wittmann.

17 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Wade, my name is Scott Wittmann,
18 and--oh, gees. There was an echo just a second ago.

19 I'd like to begin by discussing what you currently do.
20 Could you please tell us your current place of employment
21 and title there?

22 MR. WADE: I am a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for
23 International Peace. I am also--I also have my own
24 consulting--consulting company, which is called GreenLight
25 Strategies.

1 MR. WITTMANN: And how long--what are the dates for
2 your time at those two places?

3 MR. WADE: I've been at the Carnegie Endowment since
4 2017. I began my consulting firm sometime in 2015.

5 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you.

6 Could you tell us when you first joined the State
7 Department?

8 MR. WADE: In 2013.

9 MR. WITTMANN: And what was your job title there, and
10 how long did you work at the State Department?

11 MR. WADE: I was the Chief of Staff at the Department.
12 I worked there until mid-2015.

13 MR. WITTMANN: Mid-2015? Do you remember the specific
14 date that you left the Department?

15 MR. WADE: No.

16 MR. WITTMANN: Do you remember the--

17 MR. WADE: It was June of--I believe it's June or July.

18 MR. WITTMANN: Of 2015?

19 MR. WADE: 2015, yes.

20 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Thank you.

21 And do you remember the month that you began at the
22 State Department?

23 MR. WADE: I believe it's February. My first day was
24 Secretary Kerry's first day.

25 MR. WITTMANN: Understood. Thank you.

1 And in this position at the State Department, could you
2 describe what your responsibilities were?

3 MR. WADE: I mean, the Chief of Staff at the State
4 Department is somewhat of a jack of all trades, a lot of
5 management of personnel and a personnel process. There was
6 obviously a transition at the Department in 2013 with the
7 new Secretary coming in, a lot of Assistant Secretaries and
8 Under Secretaries leaving, so that a huge component of my
9 time was spent 2013 and 2014 with the personnel process and
10 helping get our folks up and running, get our operation
11 going, getting people confirmed. But the Senate, working
12 partnership with the leg affairs team on that, worked on a
13 lot of initiatives that mattered to Secretary Kerry, whether
14 it was issues where he was hopeful of putting a really
15 personal imprint on the Department, issues like climate
16 change, which was an issue he wanted to elevate with foreign
17 policy issues and the like.

18 But, I mean, I think it's safe to say that the Chief of
19 Staff of the Department, there's not one model. There's not
20 one model. There's different models for it. Often that
21 comes out of a person's specific background, but it
22 typically requires being a generalist with a grasp of all
23 the ingredients, whether it's communications, policy, a good
24 background, good management skills.

25 MR. WITTMANN: And before you were at the State

1 Department, did you work for the Secretary before here?

2 MR. WADE: Yeah. Yes. I was--I was Secretary Kerry--I
3 was then Chairman Kerry's Chief of Staff for the years when
4 he was chairing the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

5 MR. WITTMANN: Understood. Thank you.

6 I'd like to turn to our first exhibit, Exhibit No. 1,
7 please, Will.

8 And, Mr. Wade, you're going to see this appear on your
9 screen in a second.

10 [Wade Exhibit No. 1 marked for
11 identification.]

12 MR. SAUBER: Let me just interrupt for a second, Scott.

13 I don't have these numbered. I was given them as a
14 list. When you say Exhibit 1, is it the first exhibit that
15 I received?

16 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Sauber, I think all of the exhibits
17 that you received have numbers on them. I don't know what
18 order those numbers are in, in your In Box, but they all
19 have numbers that will correspond today with the exhibits
20 that we are using.

21 MR. SAUBER: Okay. So if you're--

22 MR. WITTMANN: In the anticipated order in which we are
23 using them.

24 MR. SAUBER: Okay. So you're going to have to give me
25 a second, then--

1 MR. WITTMANN: Sure.

2 MR. SAUBER: --to find this one. So this is Susan
3 Crabtree. Is that--just hold on one second. No. One sec.
4 Not that many.

5 MR. SCHRAM: I'll note again, the Majority has not
6 provided this to the Minority. So I would ask that you hold
7 your questioning until we have an opportunity to find it and
8 distribute it.

9 MR. SAUBER: Okay. Zack, you work that out with them.
10 All I'm saying is I now have the exhibit up in front.

11 MR. WITTMANN: Understood. Note, Zack, we've used this
12 exhibit before, and it's on the screen as we speak.

13 MR. SCHRAM: Okay. Well, I'll let you know when we
14 have it in front of us and we're ready.

15 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Wade, have you had a chance to
16 review this document?

17 MR. WADE: I--I glance--I scanned it quickly, yeah.
18 Yes.

19 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. So, according to public reports,
20 this being one of them--

21 MR. SCHRAM: Scott, not to repeat myself, we're not
22 going to let the record continue until we have an
23 opportunity to have this document in front of us. I'm
24 looking at two sentences on a screen. It is not for us to
25 follow along in this fashion. This is something that you

1 could have easily remedied in advance of this.

2 MR. FOLIO: Hey, Zack. So this is Joe.

3 The question that we're going to ask is about those
4 first two sentences. Do you need time to read the first two
5 sentences?

6 MR. SCHRAM: Just getting copy of the document now. So
7 it's important for us--you have not even mentioned where it
8 came, its origins, et cetera. So we'll need an opportunity
9 to look at the exhibit.

10 MR. FOLIO: And, Zack, this is the document you've seen
11 during previous interviews, right?

12 MR. SCHRAM: I'm not the witness. I'd ask you to
13 direct your questions to the witnesses--the witness.

14 MR. FOLIO: We're going to proceed to ask questions of
15 the witness, then. So insofar as you need time to see
16 something that you've already seen before, that something is
17 on the screen. You've had that time. It's on the screen,
18 and if you're refusing to answer questions, that's fine. So
19 I'm going to ask Scott to go ahead.

20 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you.

21 According to public reports, Vice President Biden
22 became the public face of the administration's handling of
23 the Ukraine in April 2014. From your perspective, Mr. Wade,
24 what was Vice President Biden's role in developing U.S.
25 policy toward Ukraine?

1 MR. WADE: I--candidly, I did not have detailed
2 visibility into that process.

3 MR. WITTMANN: And when you say "into that process,"
4 could you expand on that?

5 MR. WADE: I was not directly involved in the
6 interagency process on Ukraine. Obviously, there's a whole-
7 of-government approach. Secretary was in the lead and was
8 very active with the team at the Department, but I was not--
9 I did not have a whole lot of visibility into what Vice
10 President Biden specifically was doing, shaping up the
11 policy.

12 MR. SAUBER: Scott, can I just clarify? This is Dick
13 Sauber again. What is this? It is a piece of paper. We
14 can see it. But can you identify what it is, where it's
15 from?

16 MR. WITTMANN: Sure. This is a Washington Examiner
17 article published on April 25th, 2014.

18 MR. SAUBER: So when you prefaced your--just for
19 clarity, when you prefaced your question--you know, there
20 are published reports, et cetera--do you have other reports
21 other than this one that you're referring to?

22 MR. WITTMANN: I think that there are other reports.
23 This is the one that we've been using as an example.

24 MR. SAUBER: Okay. So your representation just in this
25 question is this is from something called the Washington

1 Examiner, and you're saying this is representative of lots
2 of other reports?

3 MR. WITTMANN: I don't know--I don't know how many
4 other reports, but there have been reports that have made
5 similar representations. This is one of them.

6 MR. SAUBER: Okay.

7 MR. WITTMANN: And this is the one that we are using as
8 the basis for the question about Vice President Biden being
9 the public face of the administration's handling of the
10 Ukraine, which is a direct quote from this article.

11 MR. SAUBER: I can see that. Okay.

12 David, did you finish your answer? Do you have other
13 things to say?

14 MR. WADE: No. I mean, nothing--nothing else to add
15 other than, I guess, just to--just to mention I don't recall
16 seeing this article at the time, I guess, April 2014. I
17 didn't--I did not read Susan Crabtree's piece back then that
18 I recall.

19 MR. WITTMANN: Do you recall in terms of whether or not
20 there was a perception that Vice President Biden was a
21 public figure or a public face of the administration's
22 handling of Ukraine policy at that time?

23 MR. WADE: Not that--not that I was involved in or
24 aware of. I mean, again, I thought Secretary Kerry and the
25 State Department is meeting in the driver's seat with

1 respect to the administration's policy on Ukraine.

2 MR. WITTMANN: So just so I understand for the record,
3 from your perspective as Chief of Staff to Secretary Kerry,
4 you felt that Secretary Kerry was the--I think you said the
5 lead figure in this role with regard to U.S.-Ukraine policy?

6 MR. WADE: Yeah. I mean, Secretary Kerry and the State
7 Department.

8 MR. WITTMANN: And who specifically at the State
9 Department?

10 MR. WADE: Secretary Kerry, Assistant Secretary Nuland.

11 MR. WITTMANN: And what was their role in driving U.S.-
12 Ukraine policy?

13 MR. WADE: Again, I was not--I was not involved in the
14 details on Ukraine policy. This was not an area that I
15 specialized in, but they were certainly--in my mind, they
16 were the ones thinking about the larger--the larger strategy
17 for the Department of how we supported the new--the new
18 Ukraine coming out of the revolution in the Maidan.

19 MR. WITTMANN: And what were their specific policies
20 that you were aware of that they were--that they were
21 pushing and that they supported?

22 MR. WADE: From the U.S. side, it was obviously helping
23 the new Ukraine deliver after such frustration, you know,
24 that went to the revolution and the Maidan. So it was
25 increased need from the United States. It was--it was

1 reform of the institutions, and it was obviously helping to
2 protect Ukraine from Russia and obviously dealing with--
3 dealing with Vladimir Putin's efforts to dismember the
4 country.

5 MR. WITTMANN: And you mentioned reform. What type of
6 reform were you referring to?

7 MR. WADE: Modernizing the economy, reforming and
8 opening up the government.

9 MR. WITTMANN: Were they also pushing measures
10 regarding anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine?

11 MR. WADE: Yeah. Again, I--I know that the answer is
12 yes. I was not involved in those specific initiatives.

13 MR. WITTMANN: Do you--who--could you tell us who was
14 outside of Secretary Kerry and Ms. Nuland?

15 MR. WADE: In terms of within the State Department?

16 MR. WITTMANN: Yes, sir.

17 MR. WADE: I mean, Secretary Kerry and Assistant
18 Secretary Nuland would have been the people that I was--
19 again, who--if I had a question, that would be the function--
20 -would have been the ENR Bureau at the State Department.

21 MR. WITTMANN: When you were Chief of Staff for
22 Secretary Kerry at the State Department, did you facilitate
23 any meetings that involved Ukrainian officials?

24 MR. WADE: Not that I recall.

25 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Could you tell us about the

1 extent to which you were involved in briefings or
2 preparations regarding Ukraine policy at the State
3 Department?

4 MR. WADE: I mean, limited.

5 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I want to go to Exhibit 2.

6 And, Mr. Sauber, I believe this will be the PDF labeled
7 2, and it's one page. It's Bates No. 3766. This is the
8 only information on that page that appears on the screen.

9 [Wade Exhibit No. 2 marked for
10 identification.]

11 MR. SAUBER: I have it. Thank you.

12 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Wade--

13 MR. SCHRAM: Again, I would ask that the Majority pause
14 its questioning so that the Minority might find and refer to
15 this document.

16 MR. WITTMANN: It's Bates No. 3766. It's on the
17 screen. It's one page.

18 This document, Mr. Wade, shows a meeting--

19 MR. SCHRAM: Sorry. Scott, we don't have the document
20 yet. I'd like to confirm that this is a complete record,
21 that in the past, you have segregated records in a way that
22 wasn't consistent with the way we've received it. So
23 because you have not provided this to us in advance, we'll
24 now take a moment to review and make sure it's consistent
25 with the records that we've received.

1 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you, Zack. It's 3766. Please let
2 us know when you're ready.

3 [Pause.]

4 MR. SCHRAM: Thank you. We're ready.

5 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you.

6 Mr. Wade, this document shows a meeting invitation in
7 February 2015 for, quote, "S Prep for PC on Ukraine," end
8 quote. Could you tell us what PC stands for, please?

9 MR. WADE: Principals Committee.

10 MR. WITTMANN: And could you describe what that is?

11 MR. WADE: On the National Security Council or the
12 interagency process, a PC would be the highest level of
13 meeting, with the exception of a full National Security
14 Council meeting. At a full National Security Council
15 meeting, the President would be a participant. So this
16 would be the step down, which would be just one step down
17 from that, but a Principals Committee meeting would be a
18 separate State, Secretary of Defense, any, you know,
19 relevant National Security Council members at that--at the
20 highest--highest level.

21 And, you know, typically State Department will
22 typically have may be a plus one or a plus two. So
23 presumably--and again, I'm speculating. I do not recall
24 seeing this document. Typically, the State Department on
25 Ukraine, Assistant Secretary Nuland would accompany the

1 Secretary to the meeting.

2 MR. WITTMANN: So just so I understand, at this
3 Principals Committee meeting, of course, this document is in
4 reference to preparation for that, but at the actual
5 Principals Committee meeting--and we don't know if it was
6 the case for this one in particular, but generally speaking,
7 Secretary Kerry would attend that?

8 MR. WADE: Yes.

9 MR. WITTMANN: And for preparation for those meetings,
10 would you normally attend?

11 MR. WADE: It would depend on the issue. Typically, if
12 it was on Ukraine I probably would not.

13 MR. WITTMANN: For this--okay.

14 MR. WADE: Typically, the Deputy Chief of Staff for
15 Policy would be a part of that prep. As Chief of Staff, I
16 was able to join any prep session, and was always invited to
17 join a prep session. But whether I did or not, whether I
18 actually did or not would depend on the issue, my schedule,
19 what else was happening that day.

20 MR. WITTMANN: Did you attend a prep session in
21 February 2015 for PC--Principals Committee on Ukraine?

22 MR. WADE: So I don't recall either this document or a
23 PC meeting on Ukraine in February of 2015, so I can't speak
24 with specific recollection to it. However, most likely I
25 did not, because in looking at that date, at the time, which

1 is February 2, 2015, we were--my wife was home on bed rest
2 with a difficult pregnancy, and we were--most days in
3 February we did not know whether it would be the day we had
4 our baby or not. I knew that I was effectively going to be
5 leaving the Department when the baby came, so most of my
6 time was spent on administrative things, you know,
7 preparing--bucking things up so that when I left things
8 would be in good hands. So I would be very surprised if I
9 attended that.

10 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Who would have gone in your place
11 to this meeting, if it occurred?

12 MR. WADE: To the prep session?

13 MR. WITTMANN: Yes, sir.

14 MR. WADE: Well, it wouldn't be in my place. It
15 wouldn't be a substitute.

16 MR. WITTMANN: A substitute, you said?

17 MR. WADE: There would not be a substitute for me.

18 MR. WITTMANN: Oh, okay. Understood. I think you
19 mentioned earlier that Deputy of Chief of Staff--I'm sorry
20 if I misheard that--would attend these meetings as well?

21 MR. WADE: For any S meeting prep, the Chief of Staff
22 and the Deputy Chief of Staff would be invited to attend.

23 MR. WITTMANN: And who was the Deputy Chief of Staff at
24 this time?

25 MR. WADE: John Finer.

1 MR. WITTMANN: And if Mr. Finer attended a meeting that
2 you were unable to attend, would he give you a summary or a
3 memo about what occurred in that meeting after it took
4 place?

5 MR. WADE: It would depend on--it would depend on the
6 issue.

7 MR. WITTMANN: Would preparations for a Principals
8 Committee meeting be the type of meeting Mr. Finer would
9 brief you on after it occurred?

10 MR. WADE: It depends on the--again, it would depend on
11 the issue. I mean, we had--there were often multiple PCs in
12 the course of a week. There were what we call pop-up PCs
13 that happened quickly, on issues that were suddenly urgent
14 or time sensitive. So, you know, typically, no, I would ask
15 him or he would ask me if one of us, you know, was very
16 involved in something or needed some help.

17 MR. WITTMANN: Was he more involved on issues related
18 to Ukraine than you were?

19 MR. WADE: I don't recall.

20 MR. WITTMANN: From 2014 to 2015, did you ever have
21 meetings or discuss with Secretary Kerry or others at the
22 State Department their thoughts of the Prosecutor General's
23 Office in Ukraine?

24 MR. SAUBER: Can I ask the State Department to advise
25 us about whether this question about advice and discussions

1 that Mr. Wade might have had with the Secretary is an
2 appropriate question from the Department's standpoint?

3 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. I can hear--thank you--could I hear
4 the question again?

5 MR. WITTMANN: Sure. The question was, from 2014 to
6 2015, did Mr. Wade have conversations with Secretary Kerry
7 or others at the State Department and have an understanding
8 of their thoughts of the Prosecutor General's Office in
9 Ukraine.

10 MR. THOMAS: If it's a view--if this related to the
11 formulation of policy or was pre-decisional as to an action
12 or a proposal to be taken, then I am going to suggest that
13 Executive branch confidentiality interests may be
14 implicated. If it's simply an opinion as to whether or not
15 that office was good, bad, indifferent, or a prosecutor was
16 good, bad, or indifferent, outside the context of a specific
17 pre-decisional process, then I would not raise that issue.

18 So it may be that Mr. Sauber and I and Mr. Wade need to
19 have a separate conversation, because I don't know what the
20 answer is going to be.

21 MR. FOLIO: And this is Joe Folio, if I may interject.
22 So the question, in particular, was whether or not Mr. Wade
23 participated in those conversations, which does not call for
24 a privileged response. Mr. Thomas, as you pointed out,
25 insofar as there is such a thing as the deliberative process

1 privilege that would apply to Congress, it would only apply
2 to the substance of the conversations in certain
3 circumstances, and I think there's a little more detail to
4 all of that that we would need to discuss, which is to
5 clarify these types of questions, whether or not he
6 participated in conversations, we do not believe calls for
7 any privileged information, because it's just the fact of
8 the conversations as opposed to what was discussed. I think
9 if the question then becomes what was discussed, we can have
10 a little more detailed conversation about the boundaries of
11 the privilege.

12 MR. THOMAS: My apologies. You are right, sir. Mr.
13 Sauber and I think--and we're ahead of ourselves a bit.

14 MR. SAUBER: So this is a yes/no question, David.

15 MR. WADE: Do you mind just repeating the question?

16 You are on mute, Scott.

17 MR. WITTMANN: From 2014 to 2015, did you engage in
18 discussions with Secretary Kerry or anyone else at the State
19 Department about the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine?

20 MR. WADE: Not that I remember, no.

21 MR. SAUBER: So I guess we don't need the privilege
22 issue resolved.

23 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Wade, were you aware of any
24 conversations of officials at the State Department regarding
25 the effectiveness of the Prosecutor General's Office of

1 Ukraine, or the Prosecutor General himself?

2 MR. WADE: No.

3 MR. WITTMANN: Were you aware of allegations from
4 individuals in the State Department raising concerns that
5 individuals in former Prosecutor General Yarema's office
6 accepted bribes from a person named Mykola Zlochevsky?

7 MR. SAUBER: I am assuming you're asking him was he
8 aware back in 2014 and '15?

9 MR. WITTMANN: Correct. Correct. Just to repeat the
10 question, were you aware of officials in the State
11 Department raising concerns that individuals in the
12 Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, and at that time it
13 would have been Prosecutor General Yarema, accepting bribes
14 from a person named Mykola Zlochevsky?

15 MR. WADE: No.

16 MR. WITTMANN: Were there any discussions that you were
17 involved in regarding the company Burisma?

18 MR. SAUBER: Time frame?

19 MR. WITTMANN: During your time as Chief of Staff to
20 Secretary Kerry.

21 MR. WADE: Can you repeat the first part of that
22 question please?

23 MR. WITTMANN: Do you recall--were you aware of any
24 conversations regarding the company Burisma?

25 MR. WADE: Let me just answer in this way. The only

1 time I became aware of the company Burisma was when there
2 were news reports happening around the issue of--media
3 questions about Chris Heinz, suggesting that he had invested
4 or was buying Burisma. That was the first time I heard
5 about Burisma.

6 MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry. The last part, you
7 mentioned--mine was breaking up--regarding Chris Heinz,
8 bringing up what again?

9 MR. WADE: Right. The first time I heard any mention
10 of Burisma in the context that I ever heard the word
11 "Burisma" was when there were media reports and media
12 inquiries to the Department suggesting, inaccurately, that
13 Secretary Kerry's stepson had bought or invested in, or was
14 taking over Burisma.

15 MR. WITTMANN: And what were the dates of when you
16 began receiving those media inquiries?

17 MR. WADE: I don't have the--the specific date is one
18 of your exhibits.

19 MR. WITTMANN: Okay.

20 MR. WADE: It's May 14, 2014, is when we began
21 receiving media inquiries.

22 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I want to turn now to Exhibit 3,
23 Mr. Sauber. That is labeled as 3.

24 [Wade Exhibit No. 3 was marked
25 for identification.]

1 MR. SAUBER: I see the numbering now.

2 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Wade, let us know when you're ready.

3 MR. WADE: I'm ready.

4 MR. WITTMANN: Okay.

5 MR. SCHRAM: Scott, does this document have a Bates
6 number?

7 MR. WITTMANN: No, Zack. This is a public document
8 that was released via FOIA.

9 MR. SCHRAM: Okay. So please allow a minute for us to
10 find this document, confirm it's what you say it is, and
11 give us a chance to familiarize ourselves with it.

12 Okay. We've got it.

13 MR. WITTMANN: Okay, Zack.

14 Mr. Wade, on May 13, 2014, Chris Heinz emailed you and
15 Matt Summers and wrote, quote, "Apparently Devon and Hunter
16 both joined the board of Burisma and a press release went
17 out today. I can't to speak why they decided to but there
18 was no investment by our firm in their company."

19 Mr. Wade, you mentioned before that Chris Heinz is
20 Secretary Kerry's stepson. Correct?

21 MR. WADE: Yes.

22 MR. WITTMANN: And who is Matt Summers?

23 MR. WADE: Matt was a special assistant.

24 MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry. Special assistant? That was
25 his title?

1 MR. WADE: Yeah.

2 MR. WITTMANN: And this email is to you and Mr.
3 Summers. Correct?

4 MR. WADE: Yes.

5 MR. WITTMANN: I this email, Mr. Heinz references
6 Devon. Who is Devon?

7 MR. WADE: He is referring to Devon Archer.

8 MR. WITTMANN: And who is Devon Archer?

9 MR. WADE: Devon--I don't know Devon well. Devon was a
10 part of Rosemont Seneca. He was a--he was either a
11 volunteer or a staffer in 2004, on then Senator Kerry's
12 presidential campaign.

13 MR. WITTMANN: And when did you first meet Mr. Archer?

14 MR. WADE: I probably met him sometime around the 2004
15 campaign.

16 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. And you mentioned that he has a
17 connection to Rosemont Seneca. Could you explain what the
18 relationship is between Mr. Archer and Rosemont Seneca?

19 MR. WADE: I don't have granular visibility into that,
20 but I know he worked there.

21 MR. WITTMANN: And what is Rosemont Seneca?

22 MR. WADE: It is--it either is or was--again, I don't
23 have great visibility into this, but it was Chris Heinz's
24 investment firm.

25 MR. WITTMANN: And when did you become aware of

1 Rosemont Seneca?

2 MR. WADE: Just in passing in the context of working
3 for Senator Kerry.

4 MR. WITTMANN: Do you remember when you became aware of
5 Rosemont Seneca?

6 MR. WADE: No.

7 MR. WITTMANN: Or how you became aware of Rosemont
8 Seneca?

9 MR. WADE: I don't remember specifically how. I mean,
10 it's just--it was--I only knew it as Senator Kerry's
11 stepson's company.

12 MR. WITTMANN: Do you remember whether you became aware
13 of Rosemont Seneca as Chief of Staff at the State Department
14 or while you were working for Secretary Kerry in the Senate?

15 MR. WADE: The latter. During the Senate years, I
16 believe.

17 MR. WITTMANN: And just for the record, I just want to
18 make sure that we asked, at what point did you become aware
19 that Devon Archer was involved with Rosemont Seneca?

20 MR. WADE: I don't know. I don't remember.

21 MR. WITTMANN: Okay.

22 MR. WADE: I mean, I did not have a whole lot of
23 interaction with Chris, particularly, so I--you know, other
24 than knowing his company was called Rosemont Seneca, I did
25 not have a lot of day-to-day visibility or knowledge.

1 MR. WITTMANN: What was your reaction to receiving this
2 email from Mr. Heinz?

3 MR. WADE: So I did not--obviously I received this
4 email, at least according to what's in front of the Exhibit.
5 I received it at the time. I did not--I was not aware of
6 this email until press coverage when it became public as a
7 result of FOIA.

8 MR. WITTMANN: Do you know why Mr. Heinz sent you and
9 Mr. Summers this message?

10 MR. WADE: I don't.

11 MR. WITTMANN: Did you--

12 MR. WADE: Sorry. No, I--again, I was not--as I said,
13 I was not aware of this email until recent years when it
14 became public.

15 MR. WITTMANN: Did you frequently correspond with Mr.
16 Heinz on email?

17 MR. WADE: No. Not that I remember, unless he had a
18 specific question for me.

19 MR. WITTMANN: Was it out of the ordinary for Mr. Heinz
20 to send you an email?

21 MR. WADE: You know, I don't remember whether I ever
22 received emails from him, you know, but typically, you know,
23 typically if I did it was if something was in the news that
24 affected him or something like that.

25 MR. WITTMANN: And after receiving those types of

1 emails, what would you usually do?

2 MR. WADE: I mean, usually it would be a question for
3 me, and I would--you know, I would try to answer it.

4 Typically it would be if he was receiving media calls or
5 something about his stepfather.

6 MR. WITTMANN: At the time you received this email,
7 what was your awareness of the company called Burisma?

8 MR. WADE: I don't think any.

9 MR. WITTMANN: Do you know when Mr. Archer and Mr.
10 Hunter Biden joined the board of Burisma?

11 MR. WADE: We--the following day, after that email was
12 sent, we received media calls suggesting that Chris Heinz
13 had invested in or bought the company or that Rosemont
14 Seneca had, and that Devon Archer and Hunter Biden were
15 joining the board of Burisma. That was the first I had
16 heard of any of that.

17 MR. WITTMANN: Did you confirm whether any of that was
18 true, outside of what the press was asking you to--and the
19 State Department to comment on?

20 MR. WADE: We--I reached out, I believe it was that
21 Wednesday, to try to reach Chris Heinz, to try to confirm--
22 since we were being asked whether he, or that Rosemont
23 Seneca was buying or investing in Burisma, I tried to reach
24 Chris to confirm that, and to find out what the facts were.

25 MR. WITTMANN: So you recall reaching out to Chris

1 Heinz on Wednesday, May 14th.

2 MR. WADE: That's right.

3 MR. WITTMANN: But I think you said you don't remember
4 receiving this email from Mr. Heinz the day before.

5 MR. WADE: Correct.

6 MR. WITTMANN: And were you able to get ahold of Mr.
7 Heinz the following--on May 14, 2014?

8 MR. WADE: I think that I eventually was able. Again,
9 this is six years ago. But I believe that I was eventually
10 able to reach Chris or someone else there, and I--and
11 confirmed that Rosemont Seneca and Chris Heinz were not
12 part--were not investing in or buying a Ukrainian gas
13 company.

14 MR. WITTMANN: And how were you able to confirm that?

15 MR. WADE: Either--again, it was either talking to
16 Chris or to someone else at Rosemont Seneca.

17 MR. WITTMANN: And--

18 MR. WADE: I believe--

19 MR. WITTMANN: --based on--

20 MR. WADE: --to Chris.

21 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. So you spoke to Mr. Heinz on May
22 14, 2014?

23 MR. WADE: On the Wednesday. Yeah, I believe it's--
24 it's whatever day we started getting the press calls, when
25 some of the first stories ran.

1 MR. WITTMANN: And did anyone else join you on those
2 calls?

3 MR. WADE: I don't think so.

4 MR. WITTMANN: And was it typical for you to call Mr.
5 Heinz after receiving press inquiries?

6 MR. WADE: If we got a press inquiry about him?

7 MR. WITTMANN: Sure.

8 MR. WADE: Yeah, absolutely.

9 MR. WITTMANN: And how often did that happen?

10 MR. WADE: Occasionally. Periodically. A couple of
11 times a year.

12 MR. WITTMANN: And you mentioned that you were able to
13 confirm what he had said beyond him telling you that
14 Rosemont Seneca didn't have any investment and, you know,
15 wasn't buying Burisma. Did he provide you any other
16 information or detail supporting that claim?

17 MR. WADE: Supporting the fact that Rosemont Seneca was
18 not investing or buying Burisma?

19 MR. WITTMANN: Correct.

20 MR. WADE: No. You mean, like paperwork, or not?

21 MR. WITTMANN: Any other additional information besides
22 him just giving you the assurances.

23 MR. WADE: No. Essentially what is basically the facts
24 that are in that email from Tuesday, that Rosemont Seneca
25 was not involved in it.

1 MR. WITTMANN: In that conversation with Mr. Heinz, did
2 you discuss Burisma?

3 MR. WADE: No.

4 MR. WITTMANN: Did Mr. Heinz mention Burisma again? I
5 mean, I'm assuming--

6 MR. WADE: Just to confirm that he was not, and
7 Rosemont Seneca was not involved. And again, I think it was
8 Chris, not someone else in the company. It could have been
9 someone else at the company. But he was--he or they were
10 working to correct the record on that as well.

11 MR. WITTMANN: And the company that you're referring to
12 is Rosemont Seneca?

13 MR. WADE: Correct.

14 MR. WITTMANN: Did Mr. Heinz mention whether he had
15 been in contact with Mr. Archer or Mr. Hunter Biden?

16 MR. WADE: Only to say that he was not involved in
17 their joining the board of Burisma in their personal
18 capacity.

19 MR. WITTMANN: In your opinion, what were Hunter
20 Biden's qualifications for joining Burisma's board?

21 MR. WADE: I have no visibility into, other than media
22 reports into what Hunter's role--Hunter Biden's role was on
23 the board.

24 MR. WITTMANN: And what about Mr. Archer?

25 MR. WADE: Similar.

1 MR. WITTMANN: Okay.

2 MR. WADE: Similarly. I mean, other than news reports
3 I do not have visibility into their--into what their role
4 was on the board, and I--and I can't--and candidly, I know
5 very little about Devon.

6 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I'm sorry. Is someone not on
7 mute? Thank you.

8 Mr. Wade, you mentioned that it was during these media
9 inquiries were you first heard about the company Burisma.
10 Can you describe what exactly it was that you heard about
11 the company and what your understanding was of the company
12 at the time?

13 MR. WADE: The questions that we were getting were
14 strictly about--were about Chris Heinz's investment and
15 Rosemont Seneca's investment. You know, my only knowledge
16 from those--from that generally was that it was a large
17 Ukrainian natural gas company.

18 MR. WITTMANN: And at the time, were you given any
19 information about its owner?

20 MR. WADE: No.

21 MR. WITTMANN: At this time, in May 2014, were you
22 aware of any U.S. Government position regarding Burisma?

23 MR. WADE: Not regarding Burisma, no.

24 MR. WITTMANN: Did you speak to Secretary Kerry about
25 the email you received from Mr. Heinz?

1 MR. SCHRAM: Scott, sorry, just a moment. On my video
2 it's showing that we've lost Mr. Sauber, or I don't know.
3 Mr. Sauber, are you still here?

4 [No response.]

5 MR. WITTMANN: We can pause as we try to get Mr. Sauber
6 back on.

7 [Pause.]

8 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Sauber, can you say something, just
9 so we know that you can hear us and that we can hear you,
10 please?

11 [No response.]

12 MR. WITTMANN: Well, we can't hear you, Mr. Sauber, so
13 I don't know if you can hear us.

14 [Pause.]

15 MR. WADE: Can I take just a one-minute break, and I'll
16 be right back?

17 MR. SCHRAM: Can I--I believe the witness asked for a
18 short break. Did you get that, Joe? Is that okay?

19 MR. WITTMANN: Yes, Mr. Wade. Let's go ahead and take
20 a break. Do we want to reconvene in five minutes? Does
21 that work for you?

22 MR. WADE: That's great by me.

23 MR. WITTMANN: Zack? Good?

24 MR. SCHRAM: Yeah. Thank you.

25 MR. WITTMANN: Yeah, you've got it.

1 MR. SAUBER: David, if you don't mind, give my cell
2 phone a call.

3 MR. WADE: Great.

4 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Sauber, we hear you.

5 MR. SAUBER: Yeah, I can hear you now. Did you guys
6 see that I got kicked off or something?

7 MR. WITTMANN: Yes. Mr. Schram flagged that and we
8 immediately paused as soon as we saw that. Just for your
9 benefit, Mr. Wade asked for a break. We are going to take
10 five and then reconvene in a few minutes.

11 MR. SAUBER: Thank you. Appreciate it.

12 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you.

13 [Recess.]

14 MR. WITTMANN: All right. Let's go back on the record.

15 Mr. Wade, I think where we last left off before we
16 heard that Mr. Sauber might not be on the line, the question
17 that I had asked was whether you spoke with Secretary Kerry
18 about the email that you received from Mr. Heinz.

19 MR. SAUBER: This is a yes/no question, David.

20 MR. WITTMANN: And, Mr. Wade, I don't know if you're
21 answering the question. I can't hear you.

22 [No response.]

23 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Wade, I'm hearing on my end that you
24 might be on mute.

25 [No response.]

1 MR. WITTMANN: Let's pause for a second until we get
2 Mr. Wade back on.

3 [Pause.]

4 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Wade, I'm hearing that your home
5 line might be muted, which might be why we're having trouble
6 hearing you.

7 MR. WADE: Can you hear me now?

8 MR. WITTMANN: Yes. Can you hear me?

9 MR. WADE: Yeah. I didn't touch anything, so--

10 MR. WITTMANN: Oh, okay. No problem.

11 Okay. Let's go back on the record. Mr. Wade, I don't
12 know if you heard my question. I'm happy to ask it again.

13 MR. WADE: Sure.

14 MR. WITTMANN: The question was, Did you speak to
15 Secretary Kerry about the email that you received from Mr.
16 Heinz?

17 MR. SAUBER: And--okay. Sorry.

18 MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry. I didn't hear that.

19 Mr. Wade, could you please repeat your response?

20 MR. WADE: I did not--I did not speak to Secretary
21 Kerry about the email I received from Chris Heinz.

22 MR. WITTMANN: Did you speak to Secretary Kerry about
23 the phone conversation that you had with Mr. Heinz the
24 following day?

25 MR. WADE: Not specifically.

1 MR. WITTMANN: Could you please expand on that?

2 MR. WADE: Sure. So the day when we got all these
3 press calls--I think Wednesday--I made Secretary Kerry aware
4 that we were getting a lot of calls from the media
5 suggesting that Rosemont Seneca had invested in or bought a
6 Ukrainian natural gas company, and I let him know that we
7 were trying to--that I was trying to find out the facts.

8 And then when I did, I let him know that Chris Heinz
9 and Rosemont Seneca were not involved, that the media
10 questions were inaccurate, and that Chris Heinz was not
11 buying or investing in a Ukrainian natural gas company, but
12 that my understanding was that--was that Hunter Biden and
13 Devon Archer, according to the stories, that that was
14 accurate, that they were going on--that they were joining a
15 board.

16 MR. WITTMANN: So were these conversations, emails,
17 phone calls? Do you remember?

18 MR. WADE: I don't recall whether it was in-person
19 conversation or a phone call.

20 MR. WITTMANN: But you remember talking about Hunter
21 Biden and Devon Archer with Secretary Kerry?

22 MR. WADE: I remember making him aware in case he got
23 any press questions that these questions were out there
24 about Christopher Heinz and Rosemont Seneca, and that we
25 were specifically being asked for the Secretary's reaction

1 to his--to his stepson investing in or buying a Ukrainian
2 natural gas company. And I--and I let him know that that
3 was what we were trying to confirm.

4 MR. WITTMANN: And when did this conversation take
5 place with the Secretary?

6 MR. WADE: The day of the--the day of the media
7 inquiries.

8 MR. WITTMANN: Was that May 14th, 2014?

9 MR. WADE: I think--I believe so. That's the
10 Wednesday, correct?

11 MR. WITTMANN: Correct. That would have been the
12 Wednesday of that month on that day.

13 MR. WADE: Yeah, I believe so.

14 MR. WITTMANN: And what was Secretary Kerry's reaction
15 to you telling him about these media inquiries and
16 specifically the connections of Hunter Biden and Devon
17 Archer to Burisma?

18 MR. SAUBER: [Inaudible--audio difficulties]
19 appropriate question for Mr. Wade to answer.

20 MR. WADE: What's that, Dick? I couldn't hear you.

21 MR. SAUBER: I just wanted the State Department
22 representatives to opine before you go ahead in answering
23 that question.

24 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Sauber, do you think that question
25 calls for a discussion of official U.S. Government business

1 or a pre-decisional matter relating to the development of
2 policy?

3 MR. SAUBER: Could be, depending on what the answer is,
4 sure.

5 MR. THOMAS: Oh, okay. So matters relating to a
6 stepson's personal business investments and his partner's
7 board memberships are--you think they are related to U.S.
8 Government business?

9 MR. SAUBER: Well, what if the--and I--

10 MR. THOMAS: Then you better talk about that offline,
11 then.

12 MR. SAUBER: Well, I have no idea, but obviously if
13 the--

14 MR. THOMAS: No. If there are theoretic--I'm sorry. I
15 was giving the Secretary the benefit of the doubt that there
16 was not a theoretical basis for that type of material to
17 involve U.S. Government business, but if there is, then we
18 should talk about it offline.

19 MR. SAUBER: I don't know if there is or not. I think
20 in many respects, that's the point of this inquiry, but if
21 you're--absent to her information, which I don't have, if
22 you're comfortable, then we'll go ahead.

23 MR. THOMAS: No. I'm concerned now that perhaps there
24 were actual official U.S. Government interventions in this
25 regard, of which I'm unaware, which would give me a basis to

1 assert potential executive branch confidentiality answers.
2 So I'm happy to take the time to discuss with you and your
3 client what the other background is about which I may not be
4 aware.

5 MR. SAUBER: Okay.

6 David, do you think we need to discuss this? Are you--
7 hearing what you're hearing, are you comfortable going
8 ahead?

9 MR. WADE: I'm comfortable.

10 MR. SAUBER: Okay.

11 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

12 MR. SAUBER: Okay, Ken. We're okay.

13 Go ahead, David.

14 MR. WADE: Scott, do you just want to--do you mind just
15 repeating the question?

16 MR. WITTMANN: Sure. My question was, What was
17 Secretary Kerry's reaction to you informing him of these
18 news inquiries about Mr. Heinz and the additional
19 information regarding Mr. Archer's and Mr. Biden's--Mr.
20 Hunter Biden's connection and involvement with Burisma?

21 MR. WADE: He knew nothing about it.

22 MR. WITTMANN: So he learned about this information
23 from you?

24 MR. WADE: I believe so, yeah.

25 MR. WITTMANN: And when you told him that the

1 information that you were able to confirm with Mr. Heinz
2 that Rosemont Seneca had--this is what my understanding of
3 what you told me that Mr. Heinz told you, that Rosemont
4 Seneca had not invested or bought Burisma, what was Mr.
5 Kerry's reaction to that?

6 MR. WADE: If I recall, his reaction was that he was
7 comfortable answering a press question if he got it.

8 MR. WITTMANN: I'm--Mr. Wade, the line was going a
9 little out on my end. Do you mind repeating that, please?

10 MR. WADE: He was comfortable--he was comfortable
11 answering a media question if he were--if he were to get
12 one.

13 MR. WITTMANN: Did he--that he was comfortable
14 answering the media question regarding what?

15 MR. WADE: Regarding--regarding--regarding Christopher
16 Heinz or Rosemont Seneca investing in--in a Ukrainian
17 natural gas company or buying a Ukrainian natural gas
18 company.

19 MR. WITTMANN: And did you discuss with Mr. Kerry what
20 his response to that type of inquiry would have been?

21 MR. WADE: I'm sure--I'm sure I did. I don't--I don't
22 specially remember those details of the conversation.

23 MR. WITTMANN: Was Mr.--was Secretary Kerry supportive
24 of the fact that you were conveying to him that Rosemont
25 Seneca had no investment or did not buy Burisma?

1 MR. WADE: I don't--I'm not sure I understand what you
2 mean by "supportive."

3 MR. WITTMANN: Did Secretary Kerry express to you
4 whether or not--or comment on whether or not it was, you
5 know, a good or bad thing regarding the news that you were
6 conveying to Secretary Kerry?

7 MR. WADE: Yeah. Again, it's six years ago. I don't
8 remember the details of it. I--you know, but I--but I know
9 that our view was that--you know, again, what we were trying
10 to do was deal with some very specific incoming questions
11 from media that were--that were happening at the time and
12 that were a surprise to us, and so that's really what we
13 were quickly trying to address.

14 Any conversation--conversation with Secretary Kerry was
15 not long or detailed.

16 MR. WITTMANN: Zack, I think that's the end of our
17 first hour. I'm happy to turn it over to you or we can take
18 another break, whatever the witness and you all prefer.

19 MR. SCHRAM: So, David, how are you feeling? Do you
20 need another five, or, Richard, do you need another five?

21 MR. SAUBER: No. We'd like this to be over before the
22 vaccine comes to fruition, so why don't you go ahead.

23 MR. SCHRAM: Okay. My colleague Soumya will lead the
24 question this hour.

25 MS. DAYANANDA: Good afternoon, Mr. Wade. My name is

1 Soumya Dayananda. I'm one of the counsel on Senator Peters'
2 staff. Thanks for your time today.

3 The Majority asked a number of questions about your
4 role at the State Department as Chief of Staff, and that was
5 from 2013 to 2015. I appreciate your description that you
6 were a "jack of all trades" and a "generalist" of sorts. Is
7 it fair to say that's the backdrop of your answers that
8 you've provided today on the questions that have been asked?

9 MR. WADE: Yes.

10 MS. DAYANANDA: Understanding that, Mr. Wade, from what
11 you observed, did Hunter Biden's role on the board of
12 Burisma influence the Obama administration policy decisions
13 with respect to Ukraine and Burisma holdings?

14 MR. WADE: I never heard the words "Hunter Biden" in
15 any discussion about Ukraine that I was ever privy to.

16 MS. DAYANANDA: From what you observed, was foreign
17 policy pursued by the State Department in Ukraine corrupt in
18 any way?

19 MR. WADE: No.

20 MS. DAYANANDA: Based upon what you observed, did the
21 State Department alter the United States Government's
22 foreign policy concerning Ukraine to assist the Vice
23 President's son?

24 MR. WADE: No, not even a little bit.

25 MS. DAYANANDA: Did you witness any efforts by any U.S.

1 official to shield Burisma from any scrutiny from the U.S.
2 Government?

3 MR. WADE: No.

4 MS. DAYANANDA: Did you personally take any actions to
5 benefit Burisma?

6 MR. WADE: No.

7 MS. DAYANANDA: Are you or anyone at the State
8 Department--had took action to benefit Burisma or Hunter
9 Biden?

10 MR. WADE: Not that I'm aware of, no.

11 MS. DAYANANDA: Are you aware of any Government
12 official who took action to benefit Burisma or Hunter Biden
13 outside of the State Department?

14 MR. WADE: No.

15 MS. DAYANANDA: Again, based upon what you observed
16 during your time, did U.S. policy towards Ukraine change in
17 any way because of Hunter Biden's employment on the board of
18 Burisma?

19 MR. WADE: No.

20 MS. DAYANANDA: Did Hunter Biden's role on Burisma
21 shield the company from any type of scrutiny by the U.S.
22 Government?

23 MR. WADE: Not to my knowledge, no.

24 MS. DAYANANDA: Mr. Wade, Chairman Johnson has stated
25 that Joe Biden has never adequately answered these

1 questions. I've said repeatedly--this is Senator Johnson
2 saying, "If there's wrongdoing, the American people need to
3 understand that. If there is no wrongdoing or it's not
4 significant, the American people need to understand that."

5 Mr. Wade, to your knowledge, is there any factual basis
6 to support the allegation that Joe Biden engaged in any
7 wrongdoing with respect to Ukraine?

8 MR. WADE: Absolutely not.

9 MS. DAYANANDA: The Majority also asked you a series of
10 questions based upon that Wall Street Journal inquiry
11 concerning Chris Heinz's alleged investment in Burisma.

12 MR. WADE: Yeah.

13 MS. DAYANANDA: Did the Secretary's reaction to media
14 inquiries, again, which were, as you said, inaccurate--did
15 they affect U.S. policy towards Ukraine in any way?

16 MR. WADE: No.

17 MS. DAYANANDA: I have nothing further for you.

18 Thanks, Mr. Wade.

19 MR. SCHRAM: That's all for us, Joe.

20 [Pause.]

21 MR. FOLIO: Hi, Mr. Wade. I just have a few questions
22 for you about the document you were discussing with my
23 colleague.

24 If you can please pull that up again for everyone's
25 benefit?

1 MR. SAUBER: What number is it?

2 MR. FOLIO: It's what we've marked as Exhibit 3.

3 MR. SAUBER: Okay.

4 MR. FOLIO: So, Mr. Wade, Mr. Heinz sent you this
5 email. How as the subject matter of this email part of your
6 job responsibilities?

7 MR. SAUBER: Joe, I don't understand. I don't
8 understand that. If you could explain. I just don't
9 understand the question.

10 MR. FOLIO: Why was Mr. Heinz sending you this email?

11 MR. WADE: So I--obviously, I can't speak for Chris
12 Heinz, and again, as I said, I didn't see this email until
13 it became public through a FOIA process and in the media.

14 My--if I were to speculate, as Chief of Staff to the
15 Secretary and to the Department, Chief of Staff is typically
16 the connective tissue back to the Secretary's family and
17 life outside of the Department and outside of their job.

18 Years ago, I had been on the communications side of
19 government, so that that was the context that Chris Heinz
20 first got to know me. So I think if he's referring in this
21 email to a press release that went out and he, I believe,
22 presumed we might get media inquiries about it, logically,
23 then he would give me the heads-up. I was the person at the
24 Department that he knew.

25 MR. FOLIO: So with regard to your job

1 responsibilities, you viewed this email as being relevant to
2 your work because of potential press inquiries you might
3 receive about the subject matter?

4 MR. WADE: Well, press inquiries specific to Chris
5 Heinz.

6 MR. FOLIO: To whom was Mr. Summers a Special
7 Assistant?

8 MR. WADE: Mr. Summers--and I'm not being coy or cute
9 here. I believe that the job title is Special Assistant to
10 the Secretary, I believe, but for all effects and purposes,
11 Matt Summers worked most directly with me.

12 MR. FOLIO: So why was Mr. Summers copied on this
13 email?

14 MR. WADE: Again, without--without speculating or
15 without--without speaking for Christ Heinz, if I'm Chris
16 Heinz and I call Secretary Kerry's office and I ask to speak
17 to David Wade, Matt would have been the person who would
18 have answered and say, you know, "David Wade's office."
19 Matt was my right-hand person--

20 MR. FOLIO: So you said for--

21 MR. WADE: I was--

22 MR. FOLIO: I'm sorry. Please go ahead.

23 MR. WADE: Sorry. I was just going to say--so,
24 typically, if someone wanted to get a--you know, get a
25 message in to me, if they were going to cc someone, it would

1 be Matt Summers.

2 MR. FOLIO: So with regard to your job
3 responsibilities, you describe this as potentially being an
4 issue from a press perspective. So was this an issue
5 relevant for Secretary Kerry?

6 MR. WADE: I'm not--I'm not following you.

7 MR. FOLIO: You said that this was something that the
8 press could ask about. So you're saying this is something
9 the press could have asked Secretary Kerry about; therefore,
10 this is why it was relevant to your job responsibilities?

11 MR. WADE: Or could ask the Department about--I mean,
12 you know, since he--since the email references a press
13 release being sent out, I presume that is the reason was
14 that he thought we might be getting press questions, and he
15 wanted me to be aware.

16 MR. FOLIO: So why was this a relevant issue for you to
17 be aware of?

18 MR. SAUBER: I mean, are you asking him again to put
19 himself in the mind of the person who sent it to him?

20 MR. FOLIO: No.

21 MR. SAUBER: You're asking him to say why does he think
22 he received this?

23 MR. FOLIO: Yes. From his perspective sitting in the
24 chair of Chief of Staff, this email comes across his screen,
25 and Mr. Heinz is telling him about a decision by his private

1 business partners to join the board of Burisma.

2 So I want to understand from the Chief of Staff's
3 perspective, how does he see this fitting into his roles and
4 responsibilities as the Chief of Staff to the Secretary and
5 how was this relevant to any work that he was going to do in
6 his role for the support.

7 MR. SAUBER: All right. He's already said he didn't
8 see it until months later. So leaving that aside, he has--
9 this has been asked and answered, but I'll let him try
10 again.

11 MR. WADE: Yeah. Again, I would speculate that Chris
12 Heinz was flagging for me, since there was a press release,
13 t hat we might be getting questions, and he was giving me
14 that heads-up.

15 MR. FOLIO: You also said that you at some point, in
16 some manner, had a conversation with Secretary Kerry about
17 this. So was this just an issue about Secretary Kerry's
18 ethics?

19 MR. WADE: No. I was making him aware that we were
20 getting press inquiries, and that the press inquiries were
21 centered on the idea that his stepson was investing or
22 buying a Ukrainian natural gas company.

23 MR. FOLIO: So was this relevant to U.S. foreign policy
24 to Ukraine?

25 MR. WADE: Was what relevant?

1 MR. FOLIO: The subject matter of the email, the
2 decision of Devon Archer and Hunter Biden to join the board
3 of Burisma and Mr. Heinz's decision to email you and
4 distance himself from that decision.

5 MR. WADE: My view is that the board membership is
6 their personal business, and I think Chris Heinz, when he
7 studied the press released, was trying to make me aware of
8 the potential that we would get media inquiries, and he
9 wanted--and I presume he wanted me to know the facts.

10 And, you know, frankly, I wish I had seen his email.
11 If I had, I would have started out with a little bit more
12 knowledge than when we started getting media inquiries the
13 next day based on false information.

14 MR. FOLIO: So aside from preparing the Secretary for a
15 press increase--press inquiries, was there any concern that
16 this decision would affect U.S.-Ukraine policy?

17 MR. WADE: No. God, no.

18 MR. FOLIO: Mr. Wade, why not?

19 MR. WADE: Why not what?

20 MR. FOLIO: So, in this email, Secretary Kerry's son is
21 informing you that his business partners, one of whom,
22 Hunter Biden, is the son of Vice President Biden, who is the
23 tip of the spear for developing and implementing U.S. policy
24 toward Ukraine. He's telling you that the Vice President's
25 son has joined the board of a Ukrainian company, which

1 although not reflected in this email, was widely known to
2 have been corrupt. And I'm just curious as to why you
3 didn't think that was relevant to U.S.-Ukraine policy.

4 MR. SAUBER: Look, we're not--you can make all the
5 speeches you want, but if you're going to ask him a factual
6 question, leave your personal and political views out of the
7 question, so we don't have to correct the whole thing.

8 MR. FOLIO: Mr. Wade?

9 MR. WADE: The simple answer is that Secretary Kerry
10 and the State Department don't make policy based on anyone's
11 personal business interest.

12 MR. FOLIO: Are you aware of anyone in the State
13 Department raising concerns about Hunter Biden joining the
14 board of Burisma?

15 MR. SAUBER: What time period?

16 MR. FOLIO: His time period as Chief of Staff.

17 MR. WADE: No.

18 MR. FOLIO: Not one person?

19 MR. WADE: Not that I know of, no. If they did, I
20 don't believe it came through me.

21 MR. FOLIO: So what was your reaction to receiving this
22 email in which Mr. Heinz is informing you about the decision
23 of Mr. Biden and Mr. Archer to join Burisma's board and what
24 seems to be him distancing himself from the decision?

25 MR. WADE: My--again, I didn't see the email until it

1 became public years later through FOIA and through media
2 reports.

3 MR. FOLIO: I'm sorry. So just to clarify, you're
4 saying for certain, you never saw this email, or you're
5 saying you do not recall seeing this email until you later
6 saw it?

7 MR. WADE: I don't recall seeing it. As I said a few
8 minutes ago, I wish I had. It would have made my Wednesday
9 a little bit easier.

10 MR. FOLIO: So were you aware that Burisma was paying
11 money to Rosemont Seneca?

12 MR. SAUBER: As of what date?

13 MR. FOLIO: As of the date that he was chief of staff
14 and saw this email.

15 MR. WADE: No.

16 MR. FOLIO: If you had known that Burisma was paying
17 money to Rosemont Seneca to pay Mr. Archer and pay Mr.
18 Biden, would that be consistent with the information
19 contained in this email?

20 MR. WADE: I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?

21 MR. FOLIO: Sure. So, in this email, Mr. Heinz is
22 distancing himself and Rosemont Seneca from Mr. Archer and
23 Mr. Biden's decision to join the board of Burisma. I asked
24 if you were aware that Burisma was actually paying money to
25 Rosemont Seneca.

1 MR. SAUBER: Well, let's hold on. First of all, I
2 don't see anywhere in this piece of paper about the word
3 "distancing," which you've now used about eight times. This
4 says there is no investment by our firm in their company.

5 If you want to ask him whether the information you gave
6 him about the payment is inconsistent with the statement,
7 there's no investment by our firm in the company, ask him
8 that. But we're not going to go through a question and
9 answer where you're setting the premise, which is not
10 accurate.

11 MR. FOLIO: That was my question, and he asked me to
12 rephrase. But if he's comfortable with the way you phrased
13 it, I'm happy to have Mr. Wade answer that question.

14 MR. WADE: Yeah. I have no idea how payments to board
15 members or Burisma--I have no idea what account those were
16 sent to or any of that. I just don't have the ability into
17 that.

18 MR. FOLIO: And if Burisma was paying money to Rosemont
19 Seneca, would you view that as inconsistent with what Mr.
20 Heinz told you in this email?

21 MR. WADE: My reading of that email is nowhere near
22 that specific about those details. The point he is making
23 in his email is that he is not an investor and the company
24 is not an investor and the company is not--is not doing
25 that.

1 MR. FOLIO: And, Mr. Wade, what was your awareness of
2 Rosemont Seneca, and how was that relevant to your Chief of
3 Staff responsibilities?

4 MR. WADE: Very little visibility.

5 MR. FOLIO: How, if at all, was it relevant to your
6 work?

7 MR. WADE: How was Rosemont Seneca relevant to my work?

8 MR. FOLIO: Correct.

9 MR. WADE: The only--the only time I would ever in the
10 course of my work where I would ever have any occasion to
11 need to know anything about Rosemont Seneca would be if we
12 got a media inquiry.

13 MR. FOLIO: Thank you, Mr. Wade.

14 I'm going to turn the questions back over to my
15 colleague Scott Wittman.

16 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you. I'd like to go to a new
17 document. We will enter it in as Exhibit 4. Zack and the
18 minority, this is Bates 821, and Mr. Sauber and Mr. Wade,
19 please let me know when you're ready.

20 [Wade Exhibit No. 4 was marked
21 for identification.]

22 MR. SAUBER: So this is number 4, Scott?

23 MR. WITTMANN: Yes, sir. That's correct.

24 MR. SAUBER: Okay. I have it.

25 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Mr. Wade, and Zack and the

1 minority, please let me know when you're ready.

2 MR. SCHRAM: Thank you, Scott. That's one that we
3 have, by Bates number.

4 MR. WITTMANN: Okay, great. Mr. Wade, whenever you're
5 ready.

6 MR. WADE: I'm ready. I've got it.

7 MR. WITTMANN: Great. On May 13, 2014, an individual
8 forwarded you a press inquiry from the Wall Street Journal.
9 The reporter noted that he is, quote, "working on a story
10 with our Moscow bureau about Secretary Kerry's stepson,
11 stepson's private equity from investing in a natural gas
12 company in Ukraine with ties to former President
13 Yanukovych."

14 MR. WADE: Yanukovych, yeah.

15 MR. WITTMANN: "Chris Heinz, stepson of Mr. Kerry, is
16 the major private equity investor in Rosemont Seneca
17 Partners, which has bought a stake in Burisma Holdings.
18 Burisma has placed Devon Archer, the close friend and
19 college roommate of Mr. Heinz, and Hunter Biden on its board
20 of directors," end quote.

21 The reporter also mentioned Burisma's owner, Mr.
22 Zlochevsky, by name, and he asked for comment from the State
23 Department about, quote, "these apparent conflicting
24 interests," end quote.

25 Did the State Department issue a response regarding

1 this reporter's assertion that there had appeared to be,
2 quote, "conflicting interests," end quote, regarding Mr.
3 Heinz's and Mr. Hunter Biden's business dealings?

4 MR. WADE: I remember that the Department had to
5 address this line of questioning. I don't remember what the
6 specific response was.

7 MR. WITTMANN: And as you can see in this particular
8 inquiry, the owner of Burisma, Mr. Zlochevsky, is mentioned
9 by name. When you received this email, could you please
10 describe what your awareness of Mr. Zlochevsky was?

11 MR. WADE: I did not have visibility into Zlochevsky,
12 and I--and just context-wise, I don't recall receiving this
13 specific email, but I remember this specific line of
14 questioning, if it was the line of questioning that the Wall
15 Street Journal and others were asking about. I do not
16 specifically remember what the Department's response was,
17 but I believe that--and the part that I was involved in was
18 being able to correct the record to reflect that Chris Heinz
19 was not investing in this company.

20 MR. WITTMANN: We're going to move on to another
21 exhibit. We are going to enter it in as Exhibit 5. This is
22 Bates number 822 to 823.

23 [Wade Exhibit No. 5 was marked
24 for identification.]

25 MR. WITTMANN: Mr. Sauber, it's the one that's labeled

1 number 5.

2 MR. SAUBER: Got it.

3 MR. WITTMANN: And if folks could just please let me
4 know when they're ready.

5 MR. WADE: I'm ready.

6 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you, Mr. Wade.

7 MR. SCHRAM: Yes. Thanks, Scott.

8 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you, Zack.

9 On May 13, 2014, Mr. Wade, you wrote to Heather
10 Higginbottom that you were, quote, "dealing with this Chris
11 Heinz/Hunter Biden fiasco story," end quote. Could you tell
12 us who Heather Higginbottom is, please?

13 MR. WADE: She was the Deputy Secretary of State for
14 Management and Resources.

15 MR. WITTMANN: And what story were you specifically
16 referring to, or were you referring to a specific story or a
17 series of inquiries?

18 MR. WADE: I believe I was referring to a series of
19 inquiries.

20 MR. WITTMANN: And was there a particular reason why
21 you called it the "Chris Heinz/Hunter Biden fiasco story"?

22 MR. WADE: Yeah. I mean because the Journal was
23 suggesting the Secretary's stepson was buying or investing
24 in a natural gas company. That was how questions were
25 coming at us, and I was trying to get ahold of the facts.

1 MR. WITTMANN: And what would make the Secretary's
2 stepson buying a natural company, what would make inquiries
3 about that a fiasco?

4 MR. WADE: It's pretty unusual that we got a whole lot
5 of questions about his stepson's business. Suddenly we were
6 getting several questions.

7 MR. WITTMANN: During your time as Chief of Staff, were
8 there any other instances where you received press inquiries
9 about Mr. Heinz's business at Rosemont Seneca?

10 MR. WADE: I don't remember. I don't think--there are
11 none that come to mind. But I should add, it was around
12 things like, you know, we occasionally got media inquiries
13 about, you know, things like the Heinz soup company. We got
14 questions that were totally extraneous, to Secretary Kerry
15 or Senator Kerry, but that involved the family.

16 MR. WITTMANN: As you were dealing with this, handling
17 these inquiries, did you or any of your colleagues seek
18 input or guidance from the Vice President's office?

19 MR. WADE: I reached out to the Vice President's
20 office, to his communications office, to find out--I assumed
21 that they were getting similar questions, and I wanted to
22 know what they knew, if they knew anything, and/or what they
23 were saying.

24 MR. WITTMANN: And why did you assume that they were
25 getting similar questions?

1 MR. WADE: Well, since the questions that we were
2 getting mentioned--reporters were very specifically
3 interested in Chris Heinz, but they mentioned that Hunter
4 Biden was joining the board.

5 MR. WITTMANN: And were they receiving similar
6 inquiries?

7 MR. WADE: I don't remember whether they were or not.
8 I know that they--what I recall having a brief conversation
9 that they were--that they didn't have visibility into it
10 either.

11 MR. WITTMANN: And to be clear, they didn't have
12 visibility into what?

13 MR. WADE: Into the subject of Hunter Biden joining the
14 board of a company.

15 MR. WITTMANN: Did they have awareness of Mr. Heinz's
16 role at Rosemont Seneca?

17 MR. WADE: We--I don't know why they would, but we
18 didn't discuss that.

19 MR. WITTMANN: And when did this conversation occur?

20 MR. WADE: I don't know if it was that Tuesday or that
21 Wednesday, but it was in this whole context of media
22 inquiries.

23 MR. WITTMANN: And were there more than one--did you
24 have more than one or only one?

25 MR. WADE: I believe only one.

1 MR. WITTMANN: Only one conversation.

2 MR. WADE: I believe so, yeah.

3 MR. WITTMANN: And what was the takeaway? Was there
4 going to be--did you--was there discussion about how to
5 respond to these inquiries, who was going to respond to
6 these inquiries? Were any--was any decision made, or was
7 this just sort of generally figuring out what they--whether
8 or not they were receiving an inquiry?

9 MR. THOMAS: My apologies. This is Ken Thomas at the
10 State Department. I believe that calls for a discussion of
11 a presidential communication, because it is direct with the
12 Office of the Vice President. And I have been instructed
13 that this administration is not asserting that privilege, it
14 is not waiving that privilege, and anything to do with those
15 communications and the assertion or waiver of privileges
16 needs to be referred to the prior administration.

17 MR. SAUBER: Okay. Well, let's--we will refer to them,
18 get their guidance on it, and come back to you, Scott. But
19 given that intervention why don't we move on.

20 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you. Do you know, Mr. Wade,
21 whether or not--were the inquiries that the State Department
22 receiving on this matter, were they all related to Mr.
23 Heinz, or did the State Department receive any inquiries
24 that were only about Mr. Biden, Mr. Hunter Biden's role, or
25 did they all have some connection to Mr. Heinz?

1 MR. WADE: I believe they all had a connection to Mr.
2 Heinz, but I--again, I mean, just--I'm--the one inquiry that
3 I remember--and again, I was not personally talking to
4 reporters, but I believe that based on what I was being
5 asked everything was quite focused on Mr. Heinz.

6 MR. WITTMANN: And you mentioned that you weren't
7 personally talking to reporters, but in this email you wrote
8 that you were dealing with this story that was being
9 generated. So could you--and earlier you described how you
10 did have a conversation with Mr. Heinz. Could you describe
11 anything else, any other steps or actions that you took to
12 sort of manage these inquiries?

13 MR. WADE: Trying to gather the facts as they were
14 relevant, and communicating with the Press Office.

15 MR. WITTMANN: And when you say "gather the facts,"
16 could you expand on that? In what other ways were you
17 gathering facts?

18 MR. WADE: Trying to confirm the reality about Mr.
19 Heinz.

20 MR. WITTMANN: And what specifically does that mean,
21 whether or not his business dealings?

22 MR. WADE: That bucket of specific questions that we
23 were receiving, whether or not he or Rosemont Seneca was
24 investing in a Ukrainian natural gas company.

25 MR. WITTMANN: And outside of the discussion that you

1 had with Mr. Heinz, were there any other steps that you took
2 to confirm those facts?

3 MR. WADE: No.

4 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you.

5 We're going to move on and enter Exhibit 6 into the
6 record. This is Bates number 4242 to 4243.

7 [Wade Exhibit No. 6 was marked
8 for identification.]

9 MR. SCHRAM: Scott, on exhibits with Bates numbers, you
10 can assume that we have them unless I say otherwise.

11 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you, Zack.

12 Mr. Sauber and Mr. Wade, have you had a chance to take
13 a look?

14 MR. WADE: Yep.

15 MR. SAUBER: Yes.

16 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you.

17 On May 13, 2014, Jonathan Finer emailed you, Mr. Wade,
18 an article published in the National Journal, titled, quote,
19 "Another Biden has waded into the Ukraine crisis," end
20 quote. The article stated that Hunter Biden, quote, "has
21 been appointed head of legal affairs at Burisma Holdings,"
22 end quote. The article also noted that, quote, "Archer
23 served as a senior advisor to John Kerry during his 2004
24 presidential campaign," end quote. The article also
25 mentions that, quote, "Burisma is turning to U.S. talent and

1 money and name recognition for protection against Russia.
2 It also gibes with the Obama administration message that his
3 father has been tasked with spreading," end quote.

4 Mr. Wade, you discussed earlier that you learned,
5 around this period of time, information about Burisma and
6 Hunter Biden's connection to Burisma. When you received
7 this article, did you have any reaction or did you engage in
8 any discussions with other individuals or officials at the
9 State Department about Hunter Biden's role at Burisma?

10 MR. WADE: So I don't recall receiving this article.
11 That's not uncommon. I mean, we literally received probably
12 hundreds of news clips a day, and it was not uncommon for
13 someone to forward one.

14 No, I do not recall any conversations that I was a part
15 of with respect to Burisma after the initial news stories
16 were clarified with respect to Chris Heinz.

17 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. But you--but at this time you
18 had--this was the first time that you learned about that
19 connection. Correct?

20 MR. WADE: About which connection?

21 MR. WITTMANN: About the connection of Mr. Hunter Biden
22 and also Mr. Devon Archer, related to their roles in
23 Burisma's company.

24 MR. WADE: I believe so, yeah. Yeah, I learned about
25 it through the media inquiries.

1 MR. WITTMANN: And what was your reaction to hearing
2 this news about Hunter Biden joining the board, and also Mr.
3 Devon Archer joining the board as well?

4 MR. WADE: I don't recall having a particular reaction.
5 I mean, I don't--I do not remember a whole lot of discussion
6 about it.

7 MR. WITTMANN: You knew Mr. Archer when you worked for
8 Secretary Kerry in the Senate?

9 MR. WADE: I knew him a little bit. I do not and never
10 did know Devon well.

11 MR. WITTMANN: And what about Hunter Biden? Did you
12 know him at all?

13 MR. WADE: Yes. Yeah, no, I knew--I know Hunter and I
14 knew Hunter.

15 MR. WITTMANN: Understand. And what was your
16 understanding of his role at Burisma?

17 MR. SAUBER: As of May 14th?

18 MR. WITTMANN: As during your time as Chief of Staff to
19 Secretary Kerry.

20 MR. WADE: I only knew what I read in the news.

21 MR. WITTMANN: Did you ever discuss with Hunter Biden
22 his role on Burisma's board?

23 MR. WADE: When I was Chief of Staff in the Department?

24 MR. WITTMANN: Yes.

25 MR. WADE: No, I did not.

1 MR. WITTMANN: Afterwards?

2 MR. WADE: I don't know if I spoke about it with
3 Hunter. It's possible. I don't know.

4 MR. WITTMANN: And what would you have discussed with
5 him?

6 MR. WADE: I don't know if--I don't--again, I think it
7 only would have been in the context of news about him. But
8 I certainly did not when I was Chief of Staff in the
9 Department.

10 MR. WITTMANN: Do you think the fact that Hunter
11 Biden's father was Vice President, and separately Mr. Archer
12 had previously worked for Secretary Kerry, had any influence
13 on Burisma's decision to hire those individuals?

14 MR. WADE: I don't--I would be speculating entirely.

15 MR. WITTMANN: But given your role as Chief of Staff,
16 you know, the top advisor to Secretary Kerry, trusted
17 advisor, would you have advised him in terms of whether or
18 not those individuals' connections to high-level officials
19 in the U.S. Government would have any influence on a company
20 like Burisma hiring those individuals?

21 MR. WADE: We didn't have a discussion about that.

22 MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Wade, my name is Brian Downey with
23 Chairman Johnson's office. Hi, Mr. Wade. My name is Brian
24 Downey with Chairman Johnson's office. Picking up a little
25 bit on what Mr. Wittmann was asking you about, when did

1 Devon Archer join Burisma's board?

2 MR. WADE: When did he? When did Devon Archer join
3 Burisma's board?

4 MR. DOWNEY: Correct.

5 MR. WADE: I don't specifically know. I assume it
6 somehow is--I assume at that time--the timing had to do with
7 the news stories about it. But I don't--the short answer is
8 that I don't know.

9 MR. DOWNEY: Do you know if Devon Archer ever visited
10 the Vice President's office in April of 2014?

11 MR. WADE: I don't know.

12 MR. DOWNEY: Did the Vice President's office, when you
13 were liaising with them, responding to press articles in May
14 of 2014 regarding Chris Heinz potentially being part of
15 Burisma, did they disclose to you that Devon Archer visited
16 the Vice President's office in April of 2014?

17 MR. WADE: No. As I said, they didn't--the
18 communications office didn't know anything about the story.
19 They were getting the same questions that we were.

20 MR. DOWNEY: Well, this will be, I believe, Exhibit 7.
21 It is Bates number 733.

22 [Wade Exhibit No. 7 was marked
23 for identification.]

24 MR. DOWNEY: Zack, let me--I think you've told Scott
25 that you know which document we're talking about if we give

1 you the Bates number. Is that correct?

2 MR. SCHRAM: Correct. Thank you.

3 MR. DOWNEY: Thank you.

4 Mr. Wade and Mr. Sauber, let me know when you're ready
5 to proceed.

6 MR. SAUBER: I have it. Thank you.

7 MR. WADE: I'm good. I have 7 here.

8 MR. DOWNEY: On May 16, 2014, you received several
9 links to news reports published on Wednesday, May 14, 2014,
10 regarding Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board. You
11 responded to David Thorne saying that "it made not for a fun
12 day on Wednesday. It wasn't good."

13 MR. WADE: Yeah.

14 MR. DOWNEY: So my first question, do you remember this
15 email chain?

16 MR. WADE: No.

17 MR. DOWNEY: Who is David Thorne?

18 MR. WADE: He is a senior advisor to the Department.
19 He worked on economic issues, primarily, economic diplomacy.

20 MR. DOWNEY: Can you explain why Mr. Thorne would be
21 potentially interested in this issue or wanted to give you
22 a, quote, "heads up" as his email says?

23 MR. WADE: Again, I don't recall this email chain at
24 all, but if I was speculating, it's because David saw--David
25 himself received a press clip from his office. It was

1 obviously not a positive story. And he was in the habit of
2 forwarding things to me.

3 MR. DOWNEY: Why wasn't it a, quote--what wasn't good
4 about that day?

5 MR. WADE: What was not good about it was that in a job
6 that typically--that consumed every minute of every day, we
7 got a whole lot of press questions about something that I
8 did not have answers to.

9 MR. DOWNEY: And why did you not have answers to those
10 press questions on May 14, 2014?

11 MR. WADE: Because I did not have visibility into what
12 anybody's arrangement was with Burisma.

13 MR. DOWNEY: When would you say you did get a greater
14 understanding of these individuals standing with Burisma?

15 MR. WADE: Which--again, I don't know if it was Tuesday
16 night or--whether it was Tuesday or Wednesday, but at some
17 point, as we were dealing with those stories, I was able to
18 confirm that the Journal's questions and their assertions
19 were inaccurate, were not correct about Chris Heinz.
20 Somewhere in that space I got that confirmation, and then
21 State Department was--you know, our sort of press's interest
22 in us was then greatly reduced.

23 MR. DOWNEY: So Mr. Thorne responded to your comment on
24 May 16, 2014, saying, quote, "I sent it to JK on Wednesday
25 but forgot to include you." What was sent to JK?

1 MR. WADE: I believe he's referring to this article or
2 this news clip, news clip digest that he forwarded.

3 MR. DOWNEY: Who is JK?

4 MR. WADE: He's referring to Secretary Kerry.

5 MR. DOWNEY: Did you speak to Mr. Thorne in greater
6 detail after this email exchange with him, about Mr. Kerry's
7 reaction to Mr. Thorne emailing him this clip of articles?

8 MR. WADE: No, not that I recall, and I can't imagine I
9 would have.

10 MR. DOWNEY: Do you recall if Mr. Thorne had an opinion
11 about these articles from May 14, 2014?

12 MR. WADE: I don't recall him having an opinion, and I--
13 -you know, I spoke to David Thorne a lot in the context of
14 my job at staff, and I--you know, there's no memory of that
15 that jumps out at me.

16 MR. DOWNEY: So Mr. Thorne never, separately from this
17 May 2014 email chain, raised concerns to you about Hunter
18 Biden joining Burisma's board in May of 2014?

19 MR. WADE: Not--not that I recall, no. I've spent a
20 lot of time with David Thorne on other issues, Egypt
21 especially which he was quite involved in. I don't recall
22 any--any conversations whatsoever about this.

23 MR. DOWNEY: We're going to go to Exhibit 8, I believe.

24 MR. WADE: Okay.

25 MR. DOWNEY: And it's Bates No. 271 to 273.

1 [Wade Exhibit No. 8 marked for
2 identification.]

3 [Pause.]

4 MR. SAUBER: Okay. I have it.

5 MR. WADE: I got it.

6 MR. DOWNEY: This is a May 14th, 2014, email or press
7 clipping, it looks like, internally to the State Department.
8 It is a Washington Post article with the title "Hunter
9 Biden's New Job at a Ukrainian Gas Company Is a Problem for
10 U.S. Soft Power."

11 MR. WADE: Mm-hmm.

12 MR. DOWNEY: After you received these--the State
13 Department press clippings on May 14th, 2014, you forwarded
14 the article to Jonathan Finer and Jennifer Psaki-

15 MR. WADE: Yep.

16 MR. DOWNEY: --with the note, quote, "tough column."

17 MR. WADE: Yes.

18 MR. DOWNEY: Why did you describe this article as,
19 quote, a "tough column"?

20 MR. WADE: I don't recall this exact column. It's six
21 years ago, but after it was shown to me, I mean, I--it's not
22 a--it's not a positive story.

23 MR. DOWNEY: What do you think is not positive about
24 it?

25 MR. WADE: Well, I mean, just--just looking at the

1 headline, right? It's suggesting something is a problem.
2 It includes criticism from Members of Congress--or a Member
3 of Congress. It's just not a positive piece.

4 MR. DOWNEY: So on Bates stamp 272, which is the second
5 page of the exhibit--

6 MR. WADE: Uh-huh.

7 MR. DOWNEY: --the article states, quote, "The
8 appointment of the Vice President's son to a Ukrainian oil
9 board looks nepotistic at best, nefarious at worst." It's
10 the third-to-the-bottom paragraph, Mr. Wade.

11 MR. WADE: Yep.

12 MR. DOWNEY: Do you agree with that analysis, or did
13 you agree with that analysis when you first read this
14 article and said it was a tough column?

15 MR. WADE: Do I agree--do I agree with the analysis of
16 the column?

17 MR. DOWNEY: Do you agree with the one sentence that
18 said, quote, "The appointment of the Vice President's son to
19 the Ukrainian oil board looks nepotistic at best, nefarious
20 at worst"?

21 MR. WADE: I--I don't know. I--

22 MR. SAUBER: You're--let me just say--you're asking him
23 sitting here today, does he agree with that statement? Is
24 that the question?

25 MR. DOWNEY: The question is when he forwarded the

1 article in May of 2014 and wrote "tough column" to two of
2 his State Department colleagues, I'm assuming he read the
3 article, sent it to his two colleagues, and I'm trying to
4 understand at the time that he sent it in 2014, does he
5 agree with that analysis that the appointment of the Vice
6 President's son to a Ukrainian oil board looks nepotistic at
7 best, nefarious at worst?

8 MR. SAUBER: But he's already told you he doesn't
9 remember sending it or reading the article. So it would be-
10 -I mean, he can answer for himself, but it would be quite
11 astonishing if he didn't remember this incident but
12 remembered what he thought about it. So I'm just trying to
13 clarify exactly when you want him to give you what his
14 viewpoint is. So maybe you could clear that up.

15 Do you have a recollection, Mr. Wade, of what your
16 reaction was back in 2014?

17 MR. WADE: My overall reaction in 2014 was that having-
18 -having--my experience had been that Hunter Biden had never-
19 -he never weighed in on an issue of U.S. policy. So I was
20 not concerned in general about the substance of any of these
21 stories. I forwarded it because I didn't like--I don't like
22 negative stories.

23 MR. DOWNEY: You didn't like negative stories about the
24 Vice President or Hunter Biden?

25 MR. WADE: I don't like negative stories about State

1 Department, Secretary Kerry, Vice President Biden, anybody.
2 I mean, it is obviously not a positive story. I think
3 that's all I was expressing to my colleague.

4 MR. DOWNEY: So reviewing this article now, would you
5 agree that, quote, "The appointment of the Vice President's
6 son to a Ukrainian oil board looks nepotistic at best,
7 nefarious at worst"?

8 MR. WADE: I--

9 MR. DOWNEY: Those are tough words. No?

10 MR. WADE: Sure, those are tough words. I also--I also
11 take--you know, I also take pretty seriously the words of
12 people like Melanie Sloan from CREW in that piece who have a
13 different perspective, but again, this is not a story that
14 I've spent a whole lot of time on.

15 MR. DOWNEY: So the article also stated, quote, "It's
16 unclear why exactly Hunter Biden was hired by Burisma." At
17 the time, was it clear to you in May of 2014 why Burisma
18 hired Hunter Biden?

19 MR. WADE: The only window I had to why Burisma hired
20 Hunter Biden was through the lens of news reports. That
21 seemed to indicate that he would be working on corporate--I
22 think actually to one of the other exhibits you shared, I
23 think it's corporate--corporate governance or corporate
24 transparency, something like that. That was the only
25 visibility that I had into it.

1 MR. DOWNEY: You mentioned earlier that Victoria Nuland
2 was one of the State Department's main advisors on Ukraine
3 and U.S. policy, correct?

4 MR. WADE: Yeah. Assistant Secretary Nuland. Yep.

5 MR. DOWNEY: When you were Chief of Staff to Secretary
6 Kerry, Victoria Nuland raised concerns to you about Hunter
7 Biden joining Burisma's board.

8 MR. WADE: I don't recall Assistant Secretary Nuland
9 raising concerns to me. Are you saying that she did, or are
10 you asking--I'm not--

11 MR. DOWNEY: I'm asking if Victoria Nuland raised
12 concerns about Hunter Biden joining Burisma's board.

13 MR. WADE: Not that I recall, whatsoever, no.

14 MR. DOWNEY: As your time as Chief of Staff for
15 Secretary Kerry, would those type of concerns be raised to
16 your level if they were to be shared?

17 MR. WADE: Not--I mean, it is possible. I mean,
18 certainly, the State Department's legal office interacted
19 with me quite a bit about issues like recusals and things
20 like that. My door was always open to our Assistant
21 Secretaries and Under Secretaries. I was--and, obviously,
22 as Chief of Staff, I was on paper flow for, you know,
23 thousands of members, but I don't ever recall this issue
24 being raised by anyone with me.

25 MR. DOWNEY: So in May of 2014, obviously, there's this

1 slew of articles about Hunter Biden joining Burisma's board
2 in May of 2014?

3 MR. WADE: Right.

4 MR. DOWNEY: You reached out to the Vice President
5 Biden's office for guidance on these press inquiries,
6 correct?

7 MR. WADE: I wanted to find out what they were saying,
8 since I had presumed we were getting very similar questions.

9 MR. DOWNEY: There wasn't anyone within State
10 Department or the embassy in Kyiv seeking any guidance on
11 these press inquiries?

12 MR. WADE: I believe that the only people I interacted
13 with that I recall being a part of that conversation was the
14 press office, and I definitely do not remember hearing
15 anything--I think I would remember. I don't recall hearing
16 anything from Geoff or the embassy.

17 MR. DOWNEY: Did you--in our time as Chief of Staff,
18 did you ever hear from Deputy Chief of Missions at embassies
19 around the world about inquiries they were getting from
20 American press or foreign press that they wanted to get the
21 Secretary's input on or make sure that he was aware of, so
22 they would email you or notify you?

23 MR. WADE: Typically, it wouldn't be a Deputy Chief of
24 Mission. It would be the Chief of Mission that I would hear
25 from if there was an issue. Usually, the DCM wouldn't do

1 anything that wasn't through their--through the ambassador.

2 MR. DOWNEY: How much did you know about the leadership
3 of the U.S. embassy in Kyiv during your time as Chief of
4 Staff at the State Department?

5 MR. WADE: I knew Geoff.

6 MR. DOWNEY: who is Geoff?

7 MR. WADE: Geoff Pyatt when he was ambassador.
8 Particularly during the time of the uprisings and the
9 protests and the revolution, we interacted a lot with
10 Ambassador Pyatt and the embassy to make sure that they were
11 getting the support that they needed to make sure the
12 security issues were satisfied particularly about safety and
13 as being--as the protests were succeeding and taking out
14 Yankovich and getting him to flee, that we were--you know,
15 that they were receiving whatever support they needed from
16 me and State.

17 MR. DOWNEY: So as your time as Chief of Staff at the
18 State Department, how much did you communicate with
19 Ambassador Pyatt?

20 MR. WADE: Not often. It was, you know, more
21 typically--again, particularly around uprisings. Around the
22 protests in Maidan and around the fall of the Yankovich
23 government, there were a lot of conference calls. There
24 were a lot of--you know, there were a lot of discussions
25 involved, people who were not just in the era, and that

1 obviously and directly implicated--directly involved
2 Secretary's office.

3 MR. DOWNEY: So between May of 2014 and when you left
4 as Chief of Staff at the State Department, which I believe
5 was May of 2015--I might have misspoke--April 2014 to May of
6 2015, did Ambassador Pyatt ever raise concerns about Hunter
7 Biden joining Burisma's board with you?

8 MR. WADE: Not that I recall, and I think I would--I
9 believe I would remember that.

10 MR. DOWNEY: During that same time period of May 2014
11 until--let's just say May 2015, do you know if Ambassador
12 Pyatt raised concerns about Hunter Biden joining Burisma's
13 board with Secretary Kerry?

14 MR. WADE: Not that I know of, and again, I think I
15 would know.

16 MR. DOWNEY: As you said, you have spent a lot of--or
17 sometime because of the events on the ground in Ukraine
18 during 2014, 2015, did you ever meet or communicate with
19 George Kent?

20 MR. WADE: I don't believe so. It is very possible
21 that, you know, we could have been in a large meeting
22 together, but no. I do not--I do not recall ever
23 interacting with George Kent.

24 MR. DOWNEY: Could you tell us what George Kent's role
25 was in the May 2014 to May 2015 time period?

1 MR. WADE: I--I'm reaching back. I thought he was a
2 DAS, but I do not--I don't specifically recall, no.

3 Typically, with ENR, if I was involved, I was dealing
4 directly with Assistant Secretary Nuland or--again, for
5 example, when, as I said, when the protests in Maidan were
6 happening and the action was very much in Kyiv, not at Main
7 State, you know, Ambassador Pyatt would be a part of the
8 discussion that I was a part of. I do not--I don't remember
9 ever interacting with George Kent.

10 MR. DOWNEY: Understood. I think we're close to our
11 time. I'll check with Joe real quick. I guess we've got
12 about three minutes left on this hour, Mr. Wade.

13 MR. WADE: Okay.

14 MR. DOWNEY: So, as you've laid out, it appears that--
15 I'd rather have you tell us how it is since you were there.
16 The European Desk would flow information to Victoria Nuland
17 and then up to you, is that correct, on sort of your
18 Ukrainian Affairs? Is that how the State Department worked
19 in 2014, 2015?

20 MR. WADE: Basically, yeah. I mean, if something was
21 going to come up to me, typically it came via Victoria.
22 Correct.

23 I mean, it's a--like I'm sure all of you know this as
24 well as I do. It's pretty--there's a very structured
25 hierarchical way of information technique flows up this--you

1 know, this size of the organization.

2 MR. DOWNEY: As we started this interview off with the
3 Washington Examiner article about Vice President Biden
4 becoming the public face of Ukraine-U.S. policy, from your
5 position as Chief of Staff to Secretary Kerry in 2014, 2015,
6 do you--who was Vice President Biden's top staffer on
7 Ukraine-U.S. policy issues?

8 MR. WADE: At the time, he had two foreign policy
9 staffers that were, you know, sort of--I believe--you know,
10 again, I'm sure I will mangle their titles, but essentially
11 a foreign policy advisor and a deputy foreign policy
12 advisor. I don't know who else for him was involved in
13 Ukraine policy.

14 MR. DOWNEY: What are the names of those two
15 individuals?

16 MR. WADE: Colin Kahl, who I did not interact with, and
17 then Jeff Prescott, who was the deputy. And I--I don't--I
18 am quite confident that I never interacted with the Vice
19 President's office on Ukraine policy at all.

20 MR. DOWNEY: And those two individuals you named, that
21 was between May of 2014 and May of 2015 while you were the
22 Chief of Staff at the State Department?

23 MR. WADE: I believe so.

24 MR. DOWNEY: One last question, and then we'll take a
25 break. I think we discussed a planned meeting with the

1 National Security Council. Can you recall from your time
2 from May of 2014 until May of 2015 who the State Department
3 would interact with on Ukraine affairs from the NSC?

4 MR. WADE: I mean, again, I don't--I don't remember who
5 Victoria Nuland's counterpart was at that time. You know,
6 it would have been the--you know, her equivalent person. I
7 mean, again, the Department--if the Department were sending
8 someone at the--you know, for a PC or a DC, you know, that
9 would typically be either the Secretary or--Secretary,
10 Assistant Secretary, that range of people.

11 MR. DOWNEY: So--

12 MR. WADE: I mean, just to be specific, I mean, I
13 typically worked with my Department, my State Department
14 colleagues. I did not have typically policy interaction
15 with NSC counterparts.

16 MR. DOWNEY: Understood.

17 We're going to take a five-minute break, if that's okay
18 with everyone.

19 MR. WADE: Yep.

20 MR. SAUBER: David, do you need a five-minute break?

21 MR. WADE: Happy to take one or not take one, whatever
22 is good for everybody.

23 MR. SAUBER: Do you guys want to forge ahead if David
24 is okay?

25 MR. DOWNEY: That would be up to Mr. Schram. He's the

1 supervisor.

2 MR. SCHRAM: I defer to the witness.

3 MR. WADE: I'm fine to keep going, whatever is good.

4 MR. SCHRAM: Sure. We'll be brief.

5 Mr. Wade, was the policy advocated by the Vice
6 President with respect to Ukraine a policy of the United
7 States Government?

8 MR. WADE: Yes.

9 MR. SCHRAM: And was that policy in the United States
10 national interest?

11 MR. WADE: Yes.

12 MR. SCHRAM: Was it a policy that the Secretary agreed
13 with and also advanced?

14 MR. WADE: Yes.

15 MR. SCHRAM: Do you have a view of the consequences of
16 promoting the false narrative that the policy of the United
17 States in the Ukraine during the Obama administration was
18 one borne of corruption as opposed to the true narrative
19 that it was that advanced international interests?

20 MR. WADE: It's unhelpful, and it is--it is an
21 unhelpful attempt to rewrite history.

22 MR. SCHRAM: That's all from us.

23 MR. SAUBER: Okay. How much more, Joe, do you think
24 the Majority has?

25 MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Sauber, we should have probably maybe

1 15 to 20 minutes on this next round, and then we can
2 reassess where we're at, if that's okay.

3 MR. SAUBER: That's fine.

4 David, with 15 or 20 minutes, do you want to just plow
5 through it, or do you want to take a break?

6 MR. WADE: Why don't we--could we just take a quick
7 two-minute break?

8 MR. SAUBER: Yeah.

9 MR. DOWNEY: That works for us. It's 4:01, and we're
10 off the record.

11 MR. SAUBER: Good. Okay.

12 MR. WADE: All right. Thank you.

13 [Recess.]

14 MR. DOWNEY: Okay. It is 4:09 p.m., and we'll go back
15 on the record. And we'll start off this period with Exhibit
16 9, if Will could put that up on the screen.

17 [Wade Exhibit No. 9 was marked
18 for identification.]

19 MR. DOWNEY: Zack, this is a Time article from July 7,
20 2014.

21 MR. SCHRAM: I take it it is not Bates stamped, not in
22 the production.

23 MR. DOWNEY: You are correct.

24 MR. SCHRAM: Okay. Just a moment.

25 [Pause.]

1 MR. SCHRAM: Okay. All set. Thank you.

2 MR. DOWNEY: So Mr. Wade, this another article
3 published in Time by Michael Scherer, published on July 7,
4 2014, titled "Ukrainian employee of Joe Biden's son hires a
5 D.C. lobbyist."

6 MR. WADE: Yup.

7 MR. DOWNEY: The article also discusses Hunter Biden's
8 role on the board of Burisma, and reported on David Leiter
9 joining Burisma as a lobbyist.

10 MR. WADE: Mm-hmm.

11 MR. DOWNEY: So this article was published in July of
12 2014. Did you read this article at the time of its
13 publishing date?

14 MR. WADE: I don't believe so. It does not ring a
15 bell.

16 MR. DOWNEY: Do you know who David Leiter is?

17 MR. WADE: I do. I know David Leiter.

18 MR. DOWNEY: Who is David Leiter?

19 MR. WADE: He was--he is an energy lobbyist in
20 Washington. He was many, many, many years ago, I think back
21 in the 1990s, he was Chief of Staff for Senator Kerry. And
22 then I believe he went on to become Chief of Staff in the
23 Department of Energy, and I believe ever since he has been
24 primarily an energy lobbyist.

25 MR. DOWNEY: The article describes Mr. Leiter as

1 reportedly signing on to work as a lobbyist for Burisma on
2 May 20, 2014, about a week after Hunter Biden announced he
3 was joining the company.

4 MR. WADE: Mm-hmm.

5 MR. DOWNEY: In May of 2014, did you know that Mr.
6 Leiter had agreed to work on behalf of Burisma?

7 MR. WADE: I don't believe so. I never--and I don't
8 recall ever hearing from David Leiter with respect to his
9 work for Burisma.

10 MR. DOWNEY: Besides this article, did you know that
11 Mr. Leiter had lobbied on behalf of Burisma?

12 MR. WADE: Only from news reports, and again, I don't
13 remember seeing this story at the time. I've seen, you
14 know, a couple of years when Burisma has been in the news,
15 I've read that David was a lobbyist for Burisma.

16 MR. DOWNEY: In May of 2014, was Secretary Kerry aware
17 of Mr. Leiter's work on behalf of Burisma?

18 MR. WADE: I would be shocked if he was.

19 MR. DOWNEY: But Mr. Leiter was the former Senate Chief
20 of Staff to Secretary Kerry. Correct?

21 MR. WADE: Yes, but the Secretary of State typically
22 does not, you know, be aware that we would hear from
23 lobbyists.

24 MR. DOWNEY: This Time article states that, quote,
25 "Recently released documents show that Hunter Biden's hiring

1 coincided with the launch of a new effort to lobby Members
2 of Congress about the role of the company Burisma in Ukraine
3 and the country's quest for energy independence," unquote.

4 Mr. Wade, at the time that this article was written in
5 July 2014, to what extent were you aware of Burisma's effort
6 to lobby Members of Congress?

7 MR. WADE: I was not.

8 MR. DOWNEY: The article describes an effort by a group
9 of Senators to increase U.S. Government assistance in
10 Ukraine to improve its energy efficiency and reform its
11 energy [inaudible--audio difficulties].

12 MR. WADE: Sorry, Brian. You cut out there for five
13 or six seconds. You were muffled.

14 MR. DOWNEY: This Time article described an effort by
15 Democratic Senators to increase U.S. Government assistance
16 in Ukraine to improve Ukraine's energy efficiency and reform
17 its energy markets. The Time article links to a June 27,
18 2014, letter from Senator Markey, Senator Wyden, Senator
19 Shaheen, and Senator Murphy, which we will post on the share
20 drive as Exhibit 10.

21 [Wade Exhibit No. 10 was
22 marked for identification.]

23 MR. DOWNEY: Will, can you post that, Exhibit 10,
24 please? Thank you.

25 [Pause.]

1 MR. DOWNEY: So on the screen is the June 27, 2014,
2 letter that is discussed in the July 7, 2014, Time article.
3 This letter is to President Obama and signed by Senators
4 Markey, Wyden, Shaheen, and Murphy.

5 Mr. Wade, do you need some more time to review this
6 letter?

7 MR. WADE: I'm looking at it again. Okay.

8 MR. DOWNEY: The articles notes that Burisma, quote,
9 "trumpeted," end quote, the efforts of these Senators, and
10 the article included a quote from Burisma's website stating,
11 quote, "Burisma Holdings today applauded the range of U.S.
12 legislative support for developing Ukraine's broad and
13 untapped resources and an increase in transparency and good
14 governance." The article noted that the statement was made
15 on the same day the Senators' letter was released. Further,
16 the Senators' staff told Time that they did not have contact
17 with Mr. Leiter during the drafting of this June 27, 2014,
18 letter.

19 Mr. Wade, were you aware of the Senators' June 27,
20 2014, letter to President Obama?

21 MR. WADE: Not that I recall. I mean, candidly,
22 there's--there's a lot of letters to the President from the
23 Hill, and I do not recall this one.

24 MR. DOWNEY: You know, I will note that it was
25 addressed to President Obama, and Secretary Kerry was not

1 cc'd nor anyone else in the State Department.

2 MR. WADE: Gotcha.

3 MR. DOWNEY: Would this type of request that was
4 addressed to the President get filtered from the White House
5 to State Department, though? I know you just mentioned
6 there's a lot of letters that go from Congress to the
7 President. But this one that is so rich in detail about
8 Ukraine, would this be sent to your attention as a courtesy,
9 or how would that work?

10 MR. WADE: It depends. Often if the White House
11 received a letter--the White House does not always respond
12 to letters. They sometimes send them to relevant agencies,
13 you know, in which case it would go to the Department, to
14 the Bureau of Legislative Affairs for the State Department.
15 And as Chief of Staff, the Department were asked to respond
16 to a letter I might see that response when it came up to the
17 Secretary of State. But, you know, but the White House
18 could also take it upon themselves to be the responding
19 agency.

20 MR. DOWNEY: Were you aware of Burisma's statement
21 regarding support of this U.S. legislative efforts from June
22 of 2014?

23 MR. WADE: No. That does not ring a bell.

24 MR. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Wade. I'm going to turn
25 the questioning over to Mr. Wittmann.

1 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you, Brian. Just working out our
2 microphone issues. I think we're all good. Can you hear
3 me?

4 MR. WADE: Yeah.

5 MR. WITTMANN: Great. I'd like to enter into the
6 record our next exhibit, Exhibit 11.

7 [Wade Exhibit No.11 was marked
8 for identification.]

9 MR. WADE: And can I just ask a practical question?
10 Does that mean I can safely put to the side the other
11 exhibits, or are we kind of going kind of chronologically?

12 MR. WITTMANN: We were going chronologically. This is
13 one that we are not going to do in order.

14 MR. WADE: Okay.

15 MR. WITTMANN: This is a news article that I believe
16 Mr. Folio just sent to everyone.

17 MR. SAUBER: Hold on. Exhibit 11--

18 MR. WITTMANN: This is a--sorry. We're entering it in
19 as Exhibit 11, but it is not in--it is a public document.
20 It is a news article that Mr. Folio just sent.

21 MR. SAUBER: Okay. So you sent us Exhibit 11, so what
22 exactly is the number of this one?

23 MR. WITTMANN: Sure. This--for the record it's Exhibit
24 11. In your email, Mr. Sauber, I believe the PDF is labeled
25 as 13.

1 MR. SAUBER: Oh, you mean--we have not received this.
2 Is that right?

3 MR. WITTMANN: Correct.

4 MR. SAUBER: Okay. And just exactly what is the basis
5 on which you're introducing a new exhibit that we haven't
6 seen before, when I was told that I would get all the
7 exhibits ahead of time?

8 [Pause.]

9 MR. SAUBER: Joe, are you there?

10 MR. FOLIO: Sorry. I'm trying to adjust my microphone
11 here.

12 MR. SAUBER: Okay.

13 MR. FOLIO: Can you hear me?

14 MR. SAUBER: I can now, yes.

15 MR. FOLIO: So we sent you all the exhibits that we
16 anticipated using, I think based on some of the responses
17 that we received during the course of the interview. We
18 wanted to introduce this public news article, which we sent
19 you, and we're happy to give you time for you and Mr. Wade
20 to read it, to address the follow-on issue of Mr. Heinz's
21 decision to separate from the firm Rosemont Seneca.

22 MR. SAUBER: Do you see the article, David?

23 MR. FOLIO: I didn't have Mr. Wade's email so you will
24 have to forward that to him. I couldn't readily find it,
25 but it's on the screen and Will is able to scroll and let

1 him read it.

2 MR. SAUBER: Well, I'm going to--I don't know if we're
3 going to agree to answer questions about something that we
4 weren't told about, but let me send it to David. Let me
5 read it myself. David, I'm sending you, if you can hear me,
6 I'm sending you, forwarding you what Joe just sent me, which
7 is this article from--what is the date of it--2019 or
8 something?

9 MR. FOLIO: Correct. It's dated September 29, 2019.
10 It's referring to a statement by Christopher Heinz in 2014.

11 MR. SAUBER: Okay. David, did you receive it from me?

12 MR. WADE: Not yet, but I'll keep hitting refresh until
13 it comes.

14 MR. SAUBER: Okay. I guess we can blame the Postal
15 Service on the majority, but not the internet.

16 [Pause.]

17 MR. SAUBER: Have you got it, David?

18 MR. WADE: Not yet.

19 MR. SAUBER: I'm sorry. Or you can read it on the
20 screen.

21 MR. WADE: Yeah, if we can scroll down I can try to
22 read it on the screen. Okay. Keep scrolling. Let me see.
23 Can you go up just a little bit? Okay.

24 MR. SAUBER: Are you--you've read it then?

25 MR. WADE: Yeah. I mean, I've skimmed it here quickly.

1 MR. SAUBER: Okay. All right.

2 Joe, subject to our screaming and hollering in the
3 middle of this or later, go ahead.

4 MR. FOLIO: I'll turn it back over to Scott. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. SAUBER: Okay.

7 MR. WITTMANN: So the question that we have is going to
8 relate to the paragraph that begins with, "Chris Heinz ended
9 his business relationship when Biden, in 2014, took a
10 position on the board of Burisma Holdings."

11 MR. WADE: Mm-hmm.

12 MR. WITTMANN: Do you see that paragraph, Mr. Wade?

13 MR. WADE: Yes.

14 MR. WITTMANN: Were you--during your time as Chief of
15 Staff to Secretary Kerry, were you aware of Mr. Heinz ending
16 his business relationship with Mr. Archer and Mr. Hunter
17 Biden?

18 MR. WADE: No, I was not.

19 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I want to go down just a few
20 paragraphs to the quote from Mr. Heinz's spokesperson, and
21 the quote begins, "The lack of judgment in this matter was a
22 major catalyst for Mr. Heinz ending his business
23 relationships with Mr. Archer and Mr. Biden," end quote.

24 Mr. Wade, do you agree with the statement from Mr.
25 Heinz's spokesperson that Mr. Archer and Mr. Hunter Biden

1 lacked judgement in joining Burisma's board?

2 MR. SAUBER: Hold on. You've got to be kidding me.

3 You're going to ask him about a quote from Mr. Heinz, who is

4 giving his own--I'm sorry, from Chris Bastardi. So we don't

5 know, reading this, what kind of or what type of lack of

6 judgment is being referred to here. So with all due

7 respect, I would leave out any reference to this article.

8 If you have a direct question to ask him about his view, go

9 ahead. I mean--

10 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you, Mr. Sauber. Mr. Wade, did

11 you have any personal view when you learned, or reaction to

12 learning about Mr. Archer and Mr. Hunter Biden joining

13 Burisma's board?

14 MR. WADE: Did I? No. I didn't. I mean, I generally-

15 -I thought it was a private business matter that was their

16 decision. My focus was the State Department.

17 MR. WITTMANN: When you were made aware of the private

18 business matter, did you have any kind of reaction to them

19 joining this particular company?

20 MR. WADE: No. I mean, again, my concern were the

21 questions that I was getting, which were about Christopher

22 Heinz investing in or buying this company. That's what I

23 was focused on.

24 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Those are the only questions we

25 have about this article.

1 I'm going to--I'm going to turn it back over to Mr.
2 Downey.

3 MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Wade.

4 MR. SAUBER: Hey Brian, can you take this down, the
5 exhibit, unless you're going to ask--okay, good. Thanks.

6 MR. DOWNEY: Do you know Hunter Biden, Mr. Wade?

7 MR. WADE: I do.

8 MR. DOWNEY: How long have you known Hunter Biden?

9 MR. WADE: I believe the first time I met Hunter was in
10 2008.

11 MR. DOWNEY: Would you describe your relationship as
12 professional, or--

13 MR. WADE: We have not been in touch in several years.
14 I believe that the last time I saw Hunter was shortly after
15 his brother died. I saw him at the wake and then I saw him
16 shortly, yeah, I think a couple of months after [inaudible].
17 Tough period for him. But no, I have not been in touch
18 since, but I--you know, but I got to know him in 2008, I
19 liked him, considered him a friend.

20 MR. DOWNEY: We are going to enter into the record, I
21 believe this is Exhibit 12, and this Bates number, from the
22 State Department, 10787.

23 [Wade Exhibit No. 12 was
24 marked for identification.]

25 MR. SAUBER: I have this as 11. Oh, you--all right.

1 So you're pushing these out. So this 11, what was sent to
2 me, but now it's 12 because we introduced a new exhibit. Is
3 that the deal, Brian?

4 MR. DOWNEY: That is correct.

5 MR. SAUBER: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. DOWNEY: So this is an October 17, 2014, email from
7 Mr. Wade to Hunter Biden at Hunter Biden's Rosemont Seneca
8 email account. The subject is, "Hey" and the body of the
9 email reads, "Hunter, just wanted to say you are a really
10 good guy with a lot of fans who have worked with you, and
11 obviously a really great family. This too will pass. Keep
12 the faith. David."

13 MR. WADE: Mm-hmm.

14 MR. DOWNEY: Why did you sent this email to Hunter in
15 October of 2014?

16 MR. WADE: There had been news reports that his service
17 in the Navy had ended after he did not pass a drug test.
18 And I remember thinking that, number one, I knew Hunter had
19 worked really hard with his sobriety and that that must have
20 been an incredibly difficult thing to happen, and much
21 harder to have it happen in public, for all the world to see
22 and to write about. Then I knew he was going through a hard
23 time. His brother was very ill, and I wanted to reach out
24 as a friend.

25 MR. DOWNEY: How often did you correspond with Hunter

1 Biden during the time that you were Chief of Staff for
2 Secretary Kerry?

3 MR. WADE: Not often. A couple of times. And I also--
4 and I don't recall Hunter replying to this email.

5 MR. DOWNEY: So those couple of times that you
6 communicated with Hunter Biden when you were Chief of Staff
7 at the State Department, outside of this communication which
8 you explained to us, what were those other communications
9 involving?

10 MR. WADE: Two that I recall, I recall him, when I
11 first got to the State Department, reaching out to see if we
12 would--if Heather Higginbottom and I would meet with the
13 board of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, which
14 supports the State Department's budget, and supports
15 investment in diplomacy and development. And I recall--I
16 don't think it was an email. I think he called me at some
17 other point, with respect to whether Secretary Kerry could
18 meet with his students from Georgetown University. Hunter
19 was teaching.

20 MR. DOWNEY: Hunter was teaching at Georgetown in 2014?

21 MR. WADE: I don't remember if it was 2013 or 2014, but
22 I recall that.

23 MR. DOWNEY: And Hunter requested Secretary Kerry to
24 address his class?

25 MR. WADE: Yeah, whether he would be able to talk to

1 his students.

2 MR. DOWNEY: So how would you describe your
3 relationship between Hunter Biden, Devon Archer, and Mr.
4 Heinz? Do you know Hunter Biden better than the other two?

5 MR. WADE: My relationship with the three of them? I
6 knew Chris the longest. I spent the most time, you know,
7 with Hunter in 2008, because he traveled from time to time
8 with the Obama-Biden campaign. And Devon I do not know
9 well, and I don't--I don't think I've ever had a
10 conversation with Devon that was more than pleasantry.

11 MR. DOWNEY: In your discussions with Hunter Biden,
12 during your time as Chief of Staff, so 2014 to 2015, Mr.
13 Wade, did you ever offer advice or thoughts on Hunter Biden
14 joining Burisma's board with him?

15 MR. WADE: No. Never.

16 MR. DOWNEY: Why not?

17 MR. WADE: We were never in touch on that, and Hunter
18 never would have asked me for business advice, and I
19 wouldn't have offered it. Not my place.

20 MR. DOWNEY: If Hunter Biden had brought up Burisma
21 with you, as your time as Chief of Staff at the State
22 Department, would you believe that would be appropriate for
23 you to opine on or answer his questions?

24 MR. WADE: Nobody--I don't ever recall being in a
25 position like that with anyone as Chief of Staff, and I

1 think if I had been asked something like that I probably
2 would have--I probably would have asked someone whether it
3 was--whether that was something that the Department, you
4 know, offers guidance on or not.

5 MR. DOWNEY: Okay. Well, it's 4:41, and I believe,
6 looking at Mr. Wittmann, that we are done on our side for
7 questioning. And I guess I need to ask Mr. Schram and
8 Senator Wyden's office if they have any more questions for
9 Mr. Wade.

10 MR. SCHRAM: Can we--it's 4:41 now. Can we take five
11 and I'll answer that question at 4:46?

12 MR. DOWNEY: We're okay with that on the majority side,
13 if the witness is okay.

14 MR. SAUBER: Dave, you're okay to take a five-minute
15 break?

16 MR. WADE: Great.

17 MR. SAUBER: Zack, just out of clarity here, if you
18 come back and say you have another hour of questioning,
19 we're going to object. So just FYI.

20 MR. SCHRAM: I don't think I'm at an hour cumulative,
21 so you should be good.

22 MR. DOWNEY: It's 4:41 and we're taking a five-minute
23 break. We're off the record.

24 MR. SAUBER: Thank you.

25 [Recess.]

1 MR. BERICK: If you could remind me which exhibit the
2 Markey, Wyden, Shaheen, Murphy letter is?

3 MR. DOWNEY: We're checking that. I thought it was
4 Exhibit 11, but it's 10.

5 MR. BERICK: It's all been moved around, so--

6 MR. DOWNEY: It's Exhibit 10, Mr. Berick.

7 MR. BERICK: Okay. Thanks.

8 So, Mr. Wade, I just want to briefly ask you some very
9 short questions related to this letter. So this letter is
10 dated June of 2014. At the time, isn't it the case that
11 Ukraine was threatened with separatist violence and economic
12 instability and Russian aggression?

13 MR. WADE: Yes, enormously so.

14 MR. BERICK: Isn't it also true that in June of 2014,
15 Ukraine was, in fact, dangerously reliant on Russian energy
16 supplies, and that Gazprom did, at one point, in 2014, cut
17 off those supplies to Ukraine?

18 MR. WADE: Yes.

19 MR. BERICK: And isn't it the case that during both the
20 Obama and in the Trump administrations increasing Ukraine's
21 independence and energy and less reliance upon Russia has
22 been U.S. Government policy?

23 MR. WADE: Yeah, consistently so for a long, long time.

24 MR. BERICK: Thank you very much. No further
25 questions.

1 MR. SAUBER: Okay.

2 MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Wade--sorry, Mr. Sauber. Just some
3 closing remarks and then we can all sign off.

4 Mr. Wade, thank you for your time today. Thank you for
5 your service. Transcripts will be made, and as we've done
6 with the other witnesses, I don't have all the magic
7 language, Zack, but you will be afforded the ability to
8 review it with your counsel along with the minority and
9 majority review of it as well.

10 Zack, do you have anything else for closing?

11 MR. SCHRAM: No. Thank you, Brian.

12 MR. DOWNEY: All right. Mr. Wade, Mr. Sauber, thank
13 you for your time today, and wish you all the best.

14 MR. SAUBER: Thanks very much, and thanks for your
15 courtesies all around, and please tell Joe that we
16 appreciated his courtesies, and we'll see you November 3rd,
17 or something like that. I don't know.

18 All right. Thanks again.

19 MR. DOWNEY: Okay. Bye-bye.

20 [Whereupon, a 4:51 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

21

22

23

24

25

Joe Biden emerges as Obama's trusty sidekick

by Susan Crabtree | April 25, 2014 12:00 AM

Vice President Joe Biden has become the public face of the administration's handling of Ukraine, working to reassure Kiev and trying to talk tough with Russia.

During a whirlwind two-day visit to Ukraine, Biden met with the country's leaders and announced an additional \$50 million in aid. At a press conference, he delivered a lecture to Russian President Vladimir Putin, telling him to “stop talking and start acting” to defuse the crisis.

With no diplomatic end in sight, it's a high-stakes role for a vice president whose foreign policy chops were publicly mocked by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who wrote in a memoir published in January that Biden was “wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades.”

Any missteps or another Russian land grab could prove fatal to Biden's political ambitions as he weighs a 2016 presidential bid. Critics say it will be hard for the vice president, a former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to separate himself from the administration's policy on Ukraine.

After his trip, late-night comics took aim at the vice president's tendency to run at the mouth and make gaffes, joking that Putin — and everyone else — had long stopped listening to Biden.

Republican lawmakers were also unimpressed by his calls for the Kremlin to stop backing Russian separatists.

“Or else what?” asked Sen. John McCain, painting the vice president as the front man for an administration unwilling to take tough action against Russia.

Indeed, after Biden left Ukraine, it seemed that nothing had changed. Tensions with Moscow remain high, and Russian militants show no signs of backing down in eastern Ukraine.

But Biden's raising of the American flag in Kiev wasn't without benefit for President Obama, who was able to carry on with a week-long trip to Asia. And Biden's public diplomacy revealed Obama's new trust in his No. 2.

“So Biden talks a lot -- so what?” said James Goldgeier, dean of American University's School of International Service and a veteran of the Clinton White House's national security team. “The vice president has been extremely valuable to Obama --he's done everything the president

could have asked for and more.”

The relationship between Obama and Biden is on the upswing following their 2012 low when the undisciplined -- but authentic -- vice president publicly supported [gay marriage](#) before the White House was ready to make the leap. Biden so angered the president's team that they reportedly froze him out of key meetings.

Since then, Obama has often turned to Biden to help in foreign policy binds — even if the assist only involves dispatching him to hot spots to repeat the administration's line.

Despite giving his vice president a chance to raise his foreign policy credentials, Obama has stayed neutral about Biden's political future.

“He has been, as I said earlier, a great partner in everything that I do,” Obama said, as he sat next to Biden in an interview.

“I suspect that there may be other potential candidates for 2016 who have been great friends and allies,” he added -- an awkward reference to former Secretary of State [Hillary Clinton](#), who vastly outpolls other Democrats and whose presumed candidacy has frozen Biden in place.

At the same time, Clinton has political vulnerabilities. Her own foreign policy record is under scrutiny, especially now that her much-touted “reset” with Russia is in tatters. Clinton's “what difference does it make” remark during the [Benghazi](#) hearings cemented Republican views that the administration mishandled the terror attack that killed four Americans.

Still, Obama's relationship with Biden appears to be on the mend, possibly out of sheer necessity or long-term loyalty. The president has shown a new warmth in their relationship, posing for a selfie with Biden and joking that the two were on a “guys' trip” when they visited [Pennsylvania](#).

Biden for his part has expressed comfort with acting publicly on Obama's behalf even as the president's poll numbers droop and his policies face tough criticism.

“There is nothing I would do differently,” Biden said about carrying out his job as he weighs future plans.

Many insiders believe Biden is keeping his name in the presidential mix because it's better to keep people guessing than declare the end of his long career while still in office. But Biden has made it clear he'll enjoy the ride while it lasts.

From:Blinken, Antony J
Sent:Mon, 2 Feb 2015 22:18:04 +0000
To:Blinken, Antony J
Subject:S Prep for PC on Ukraine

04:15 PM -
04:30 PM

Prep for PC on Ukraine / Blinken, Nuland,
Finer, Wade (S Ofc)

From: Chris Heinz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 5:54 PM
To: Summers, Matt <SummersMR@state.gov>; Wade, David E <WadeDE@state.gov>
Subject: Ukraine

RELEASE IN PART B6

B6

Apparently Devon and Hunter both joined the board of Burisma and a press release went out today. I cant to speak why they decided to, but there was no investment by our firm in their company.

From: [REDACTED] (S)
Sent: Tue, 13 May 2014 17:19:55 -0400
To: Wade, David E
Subject: FW: Secretary's stepson investing in Ukraine gas company

Adding you since Jen in with you.

From: Grimaldi, James [mailto:James.Grimaldi@wsj.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 4:15 PM
To: [REDACTED] (S); Psaki, Jennifer R
Subject: Secretary's stepson investing in Ukraine gas company

Jen and [REDACTED],

I'm working on a story with our Moscow bureau about Secretary Kerry's stepson's private equity firm investing in a natural gas company in Ukraine with ties to former President Yanukovich.

Chris Heinz, stepson of Mr. Kerry, is the major private equity investor in Rosemont Seneca Partners, which has bought a stake in Burisma Holdings. Burisma has placed Devon Archer, the close friend and college room-mate of Mr. Heinz, and Hunter Biden on its board of directors.

<http://burisma.com/hunter-biden-joins-the-team-of-burisma-holdings/>

Nikolai Zlochevsky, former natural resources minister and deputy security and defense council secretary under ex-President Yanukovich, was previously and is still believed to be an owner.

Seeking comment about these apparent conflicting interests.

James V. Grimaldi
Senior Writer

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

O: (202) 862-6665

M: [REDACTED]

<https://www.facebook.com/wpjamesvgrimaldi>

@jamesvgrimaldi

From:Higginbottom, Heather A
Sent:Tue, 13 May 2014 22:28:33 +0000
To:Wade, David E
Subject:RE: Final QDDR Email

I don't know what that is

[Go home](#)

From: Wade, David E
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:28 PM
To: Higginbottom, Heather A
Subject: RE: Final QDDR Email

[Trying soon – dealing with this chris Heinz/hunter biden fiasco story](#)

From: Higginbottom, Heather A
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:27 PM
To: Wade, David E
Subject: RE: Final QDDR Email

[Apt description](#)

[Are you going home now? it's 6:30](#)

From: Wade, David E
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:23 PM
To: Higginbottom, Heather A
Subject: RE: Final QDDR Email

[Ha. Even a blind squirrel....](#)

From: Higginbottom, Heather A
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:23 PM
To: Wade, David E
Subject: FW: Final QDDR Email

☺

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:09 PM
To: Higginbottom, Heather A
Subject: RE: Final QDDR Email

[David is good at this.](#)

From: Higginbottom, Heather A
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 10:09 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Final QDDR Email

As reviewed (rewritten) by David. After Andy took a hand at re-writing and vastly improved the original draft to make it more JK like.

Kent – do you want to do a once over and then we have the greenlight to get this out today? I think where it says “hoisted” it should say “foisted” but please see if you agree.

In terms of process, Wade says John Bass can get this out for us.

From:Finer, Jonathan J
Sent:Tue, 13 May 2014 18:38:15 +0000
To:Wade, David E [REDACTED]

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/white-house/another-biden-has-waded-into-the-ukraine-crisis-20140513>

WHITE HOUSE

Another Biden Has Waded Into the Ukraine Crisis

The vice president's son has taken a new role in the country's energy industry.

- [Email](#)



By [Marina Koren](#)

May 13, 2014

- [Follow on Twitter](#)

Joe Biden has been the White House's go-to guy during the Ukraine crisis, touring former Soviet republics and reassuring their concerned leaders. And now, he's not the only Biden involved in the region.

The vice president's youngest son, Hunter Biden, has been appointed head of legal affairs at Burisma Holdings, Ukraine's largest private gas producer, *The Moscow Times* [reported](#) Tuesday. Hunter described his new role [in a statement](#) on the company's website:

As a new member of the board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion, and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine.

The new gig joins several others on Hunter's extensive resume. He currently serves as as managing partner at the Washington-based investment advisory company **Rosemont Seneca Partners** and counsel at the New York City-based law firm Boies Schiller Flexner. He is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's Foreign Service graduate program.

According to *Bloomberg Businessweek*, Burisma was [founded](#) in 2006 and "engages in oil-well drilling, production of liquefied natural gas, and undertaking geological studies." It is based in Cyprus. It [owns](#) several oil and gas companies in Ukraine, including in the southeastern city of Dnepropetrovsk.

Burisma hired another American—and another managing partner of Rosemont Seneca Partners—just last month. Devon Archer joined the company's board of directors to "focus on the interaction with current investors, as well as involving new investors from the United States," according to an April 22 [press release](#) from the company. Archer served as a senior adviser to John Kerry during his 2004 presidential campaign.

"Today Burisma Holdings reminds me of Exxon Mobil in its wake," Archer [said in a recent interview](#) posted on the company's website. "It has all the chances to be one of the biggest privately owned oil companies in the world."

Archer's work focuses [heavily](#) on energy independence for Ukraine, a topic that has received much attention in recent months. Ukraine is dependent on Russia for energy exports, and Moscow has pulled discount agreements during its ongoing standoff with Kiev. The addition of Hunter to the company masthead suggests Burisma is turning to U.S. talent—and money and name recognition—for protection against Russia. It also jibes with the Obama administration message that his father has been tasked with spreading.

It's unclear whether the entry of another Biden into the fray was meant to send a message to Moscow. But Russian President Vladimir Putin, eternally leery of American hands in eastern European business, is bound to notice.

From: Thorne, David H
Sent: Fri, 16 May 2014 20:52:30 +0000
To: Wade, David E
Subject: RE: Ukraine/Biden/Kerry - in case you missed it

I sent it to JK on Weds but forgot to include you...

From: Wade, David E
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 4:38 PM
To: Thorne, David H
Subject: RE: Ukraine/Biden/Kerry - in case you missed it

Thanks – it made for a not fun day on Wednesday! Wasn't good.

From: Thorne, David H
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 4:29 PM
To: Wade, David E
Subject: FW: Ukraine/Biden/Kerry - in case you missed it

Just a heads up...

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 12:38 PM
To: Thorne, David H
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ukraine/Biden/Kerry - in case you missed it

Biden's Son Joins Gas Firm In Ukraine. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports Vice President Biden's son, Hunter, is joining the board of the a gas company operating in Ukraine. Biden will head Burisma Holdings' legal unit and "seek support for Burisma among international organizations."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Chasmar, 455K) reports White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said Hunter Biden's new position "does not reflect an endorsement by the administration," and [Reuters](#) (5/14, Rampton) reports Vice President Biden's spokeswoman, Kendra Barkoff, said he "does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement" with Burisma.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Sonne, Grimaldi, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports Hunter Biden is a close friend of Secretary Kerry's stepson, Christopher Heinz. The Journal notes the hiring comes a few weeks after Devon Archer, a college roommate of Heinz's, joined the company's board.

[REDACTED]
Office of the Senior Advisor to the Secretary (S/SRA)
202-485-1548

From:Wade, David E
Sent:Wed, 14 May 2014 21:43:44 -0400
To:Psaki, Jennifer R;Finer, Jonathan J
Subject:Fw: WP - Hunter Biden's new job at a Ukrainian gas company is a problem for U.S. soft power

[Tough column](#)

From: PA Clips [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 09:34 PM
To: PA-Monitoring-Group-DL
Subject: WP - Hunter Biden's new job at a Ukrainian gas company is a problem for U.S. soft power

Hunter Biden's new job at a Ukrainian gas company is a problem for U.S. soft power
Washington Post
By Adam Taylor Updated: May 14 at 5:46 pm

Around the world, there is a major perception that U.S. foreign policy is dictated by a thirst for oil and gas. For example, a 2002 Pew Research poll found that 75 percent of French respondents felt that the United States-led invasion of Iraq was a simple ruse to gain control of Iraqi oil. And that isn't just what the "cheese-eating surrender monkeys" think either: Establishment figures in the United States such as Sen. John McCain and former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan have both made statements that suggest they buy into it, too.

Such a perception is probably an oversimplification, but there is clearly some truth to the idea. And whether it is true or not, perceptions clearly matter when it comes to international relations.

Think about that when you read the announcement that Vice President Biden's son, Hunter Biden, has accepted a position on the board at Ukraine's largest private gas firm. According to a news release posted Tuesday, the vice president's son would join the board of Burisma Holdings. The Yale-educated lawyer would be in charge of the company's legal unit, the release said.

Here's a small selection of the responses to the news, which ranged from the incredulous to the resigned:

Robert Coalson @CoalsonR
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Biden's son takes job a Ukraine gas firm. Boy, that looks really bad. What are they thinking"?
<http://bit.ly/RCzEE0>
1:56 PM - 13 May 2014

Olga Kuzmina @OlgaKuzminaDC
Follow
Joe Biden's son is now head of legal affairs at Ukraine's largest gas company. Speechless!
<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/son-of-us-vice-president-biden-joins-ukraine-gas-company/500062.html> ...
12:37 PM - 13 May 2014

Cong. Tim Huelskamp ✓ @CongHuelskamp

Follow

Obama White House for sale or rent. Biden's son to head Ukrainian gas company. #Nefarious

<http://goo.gl/ZZ7W1U>

1:20 PM - 14 May 2014

While the general public appeared nonplussed, the official response has been muted. "Hunter Biden is a private citizen and a lawyer," White House spokesperson Kendra Barkoff told The Post. "The vice president does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company."

Meanwhile, an ethics watchdog argued that it probably wasn't that big of a deal. "It can't be that because your dad is the vice president, you can't do anything," Melanie Sloan, executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, told Reuters.

It's true that there are no rules against Hunter Biden taking this position. And it's (fairly) safe to assume that his appointment was not part of a broader, U.S.-led plot to oust Moscow-backed Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich and steal all of Ukraine's gas. However, whatever the practical reality of this posting, its symbolic nature makes it look very bad.

For one thing, while Burisma is clearly trying to portray itself (perhaps genuinely) as an open, Western company, its ownership is more than a little murky. A 2012 investigation from Forbes Ukraine noted that registration documents from Ukraine and Cyprus indicated that Nikolay Zlochevsky, a former government minister and representative of Yanukovich's Party of Regions, was in control of the company. There was speculation from Ukrainian energy analysts that Biden's appointment may have been an attempt to avoid sanctions by other, bigger Yanukovich allies.

It's also unclear why, exactly, Biden was hired: At Yahoo News, Olivier Knox and Meredith Shiner have speculated that the fact that so much of Burisma's permits are in Ukraine's troubled Dnieper-Donets Basin may play a role.

Then there's the broader problem: The appointment of the vice president's son to a Ukrainian oil board looks nepotistic at best, nefarious at worst. No matter how qualified Biden is, it ties into the idea that U.S. foreign policy is self-interested, and that's a narrative Vladimir Putin has pushed during Ukraine's crisis with references to Iraq and Libya. It clashes with the U.S. narrative that this is all about international law and human rights.

To be fair, Hunter Biden isn't the only person linked to politics on the board of Burisma: The Wall Street Journal reports that Devon Archer, the college roommate of John Kerry's stepson, has also joined, and on Wednesday, Ukrainian media reported that former Polish president Aleksander Kwasniewski would also join the board. It's an impressive crowd.

And Biden is certainly not the first politically-linked person to get a dubiously high-paying job on a board. As Mikhail Korchemkin of East European Gas Analysis pointed out to me, more than a few children of Russian politicians have ended up in executive positions in companies at the top of the Forbes 500 list, and China's "princelings" have a similar habit. Bringing big names in has obvious political advantages for companies and other rewards for the names – just ask Gerhard Schröder, the former chancellor of Germany, who sits on the board of the Nord Stream and catches flack for hugging Vladimir

Putin, or Dominique Strauss Kahn, now on the board at a subsidiary of Rosneft, the Russian state oil giant where former secretary of state Donald L. Evans once turned down a role.

Still, you have to wonder how big the salary has to be to put U.S. soft power at risk like this. Pretty big, we'd imagine.

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Ukrainian Employer of Joe Biden's Son Hires a D.C. Lobbyist



Hunter Biden waits for the start of the his father's, Vice President Joe

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Martinez Monsivais—AP



Manafort's Sentence May Clean Up Shady Lobbying

BY MICHAEL SCHERER

JULY 7, 2014 10:39 PM EDT

When Vice President Joe Biden's son, R. Hunter Biden, joined the board of a private Ukrainian oil and natural gas company this spring, he explained his new job as a legal one, disconnected from any effort to influence the Obama Administration. In a [press release](#), the younger Biden boasted of his abilities on issues like improving corporate transparency.

But the company, Burisma Holdings, did not disclose at the time the scope of their plans for influencing the U.S. government. Recently released documents show that Biden's hiring coincided with the launch of a new effort to lobby members of Congress about the role of the company in Ukraine and the country's quest for energy independence.

David Leiter, a former Senate chief of staff to Secretary of State John Kerry, signed on to work as a lobbyist for Burisma on May 20, 2014, about a week after Biden announced he was joining the company, according to lobbying disclosures filed this month.

Leiter's involvement in the firm rounds out a power-packed team of politically-connected Americans that also includes a second new board member, Devon Archer, a Democratic bundler and former adviser to John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign. Both Archer and Hunter Biden have worked as business partners with Kerry's son-in-law, Christopher Heinz, the founding partner of Rosemont Capital, a private-equity company.

Biden's office referred questions to a Burisma spokesman, who says Biden has not been involved in contacting members of Congress or the Obama Administration about the company. "His role, like all board members, is to provide strategic guidance to Burisma," said Lawrence Pacheco, who works in Washington D.C. for FTI Consulting, a communications firm that is also employed by Burisma.

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Burisma is contacting officials in Washington through Leiter's lobbying firm, ML Strategies. [Manafort's Sentence May Clean Up Shady Lobbying](#)

"ML Strategies is working with Burisma to educate U.S. officials about the company and its role in creating a stable and secure energy future for Ukraine, not any specific policy or legislation," Pacheco said.

“Burisma supports energy independence, economic growth, national sovereignty and regional stability and will engage as needed to encourage efforts to further these goals.”

Some Democratic senators, meanwhile, have been working to secure more U.S. funding, either directly or through entities like the Export-Import Bank, to improve Ukraine’s domestic energy production potential. On June 27, Sen. Edward Markey of Massachusetts, **wrote President Obama a letter** with three other Democratic senators calling for increased aid. “We should leverage the full resources and expertise of the U.S. government to assist Ukraine in improving its energy efficiency, increasing its domestic production, and reforming its energy markets,” wrote Markey, who has also proposed legislation with about \$40 million in additional aide for Ukrainian energy development.

Markey’s letter was trumpeted by Burisma Holdings as a **commendable move** towards securing the future security of Ukraine. “Burisma Holdings today applauded the range of U.S. legislative support for development of Ukraine’s broad and untapped resources and an increase in transparency and good governance,” the company said in a statement on the day the letter was released.

An aide in Markey’s office told TIME that Leiter, Biden and Archer were not part of discussions that led to the drafting of the letter or the legislation. Staff for the other senators who signed the letter, Ron Wyden of Oregon, Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire and Christopher Murphy of Connecticut, also said they did not have contact with Leiter, who could not be reached for comment.

Burisma Holdings is owned by a Cypriot holding firm, Brociti Investments Limited, which is controlled Nikolai Zlochevskyi, a former Ukrainian government minister, according to Cypriot records. It controls government development licenses in three regions of Ukraine, and sells to industrial

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Manafort's Sentence May Clean Up Shady Lobbying

By taking a job with Burisma, the younger Biden has put himself in the middle of a struggle between the United States and Russia, which currently provides

the bulk of the natural gas supplies to Ukraine. Both the White House and European nations have recently emphasized the strategic interest in making Ukraine less dependent on Russia.

Since Hunter Biden took the new job, his father, Vice President Joe Biden, has continued to serve as the Obama Administration's point person on Ukraine, traveling to the country as recently as June for the inauguration of President Petro Poroshenko and talking to Poroshenko by phone at least five times in the last month.

"I've spent a considerable amount of time in the last two months in Ukraine," the elder Biden said on June 19. "You see what the Russians are doing relative to using gas as a foreign policy tool to try to alter behavior. And so it's — around the world in varying degrees it's of significant consequence in terms of security, both economic and political security of a nation."

There is no legal barrier to prohibit Hunter Biden from working with a company that can be impacted by the policy decisions of his father, and the White House has maintained that the Vice President has not been influenced by his son's employment. "The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company," said his spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff.

But Hunter Biden's new job, along with the association with Burisma of other politically-connected businessmen, has raised concerns among some Ukraine watchers. "It's unhelpful when we are trying to get across to the Ukrainians to clean up corruption and special deals for special folks," said Ed Chow, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a U.S. think tank. "It maybe sends the wrong message that Westerners are just hypocritical."

Additional reporting by Alex Rogers and Zeke Miller/Washington

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Manafort's Sentence May Clean Up Shady Lobbying



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 27, 2014

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Ukraine's successful presidential election on May 25 demonstrated the resolve and fortitude of the Ukrainian people, and offered reason to be hopeful that a strong, stable, and democratic Ukraine will emerge from Russia's assault on its sovereignty. We commend Vice President Biden for attending President Poroshenko's inauguration in Kiev on June 7, and we welcome his announcement of additional U.S. assistance to Ukraine.

As President Poroshenko takes office, we must work closely with Ukraine to confront the urgent challenges posed by separatist violence and economic instability, while also addressing Ukraine's dangerous reliance on Russian energy supplies. Ukrainian and Russian officials have been in gridlocked negotiations over trade in natural gas since March, when Russian state-controlled oil giant Gazprom raised the price of natural gas to Ukraine by 80 percent and threatened to cut off supplies. Last week, Gazprom followed through on those threats and cut off natural gas supplies to Ukraine, heightening energy security concerns in Ukraine and across Europe. Nothing could transform Ukraine's strategic position in the region more fundamentally than major advancements in energy independence. Toward that end, we urge you to make energy efficiency measures, and the development of Ukraine's domestic energy resources, centerpieces of your early engagements with the new leadership.

Ukraine is the second-least energy efficient country in the world. According to the International Energy Agency, if Ukraine were only as energy efficient as the average country in Europe, Ukraine could reduce natural gas consumption by more than 50 percent, essentially eliminating its dependence on natural gas imports from Russia. Ukrainians are asking for this type of support. In April, a coalition of 35 Ukrainian mayors sent a letter urgently requesting assistance in increasing the energy efficiency of their buildings, district heating systems, and transportation networks in order to reduce dependence on imports of natural gas from Russia.

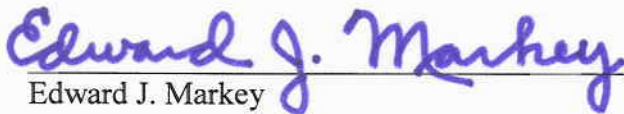
At the same time, Ukraine has massive untapped natural gas deposits of its own – their shale gas resources are the third-largest in Europe – and domestic production has the potential to double over the next decade.

The \$17 billion loan package approved by the International Monetary Fund to help stabilize the economy of Ukraine requires reforms of energy markets in Ukraine and elimination

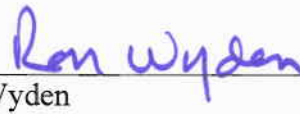
of energy subsidies, which currently make up eight percent of the country's gross domestic product. Eliminating these subsidies will raise retail natural gas rates by 56 percent in 2014, 40 percent in 2015, and 20 percent in 2016 and 2017. While these reforms are critical to rooting out corruption and increasing market transparency, they have the potential to undermine support for the new government if not coupled with aggressive measures to help Ukrainian households cope with these higher energy costs. A focused effort on improving energy efficiency has the potential to provide broad-based economic benefits that might not be provided otherwise without a substantial expansion of the country's social safety net.

We should leverage the full resources and expertise of the U.S. government to assist Ukraine in improving its energy efficiency, increasing its domestic production, and reforming its energy markets. The United States is well-positioned to lead an international coalition to help Ukraine accelerate its progress on this agenda. The State Department, USAID, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank, and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency all have relevant technical expertise and financing tools that can be brought to bear on the problem. We look forward to working with your Administration to ensure we are using every tool at our disposal to address this important challenge.

Sincerely,



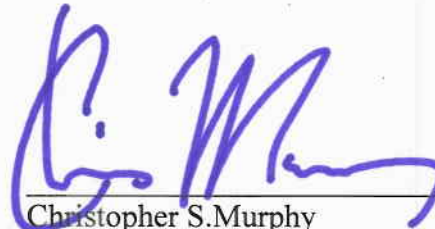
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United States Senator



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NEWS

Hunter Biden had falling out with business partner over Ukraine gig

By Mark Moore

September 29, 2019 | 2:16pm



Hunter Biden (left) and Chris Heinz
Getty Images

Hunter Biden's decision to join the board of gas company owned by a Ukrainian oligarch led to a falling out with his investment firm partner – the stepson of former Secretary of State John Kerry, according to a report on Sunday.

Chris Heinz ended his business relationship when Biden in 2014 took a position on the board of Burisma Holdings, which was owned by Mykola Zlochevsky, even as his father then-Vice President Joe Biden was serving in the Obama administration and cracking down on corruption in Ukraine, [the Washington Post reported](#).

Hunter Biden, a partner with Heinz in the investment firm Rosemont Seneca, joined Burisma shortly after another of the firm's partners, Devon Archer, also had accepted an invitation to the board.

Heinz parted ways with both men after raising concerns about corruption in Ukraine and questions about appearance.

"The lack of judgment in this matter was a major catalyst for Mr. Heinz ending his business relationships with Mr. Archer and Mr. Biden," Heinz spokesman Chris Bastardi told the newspaper.

According to the report, Biden said he joined Burisma at the urging of the former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, who was on the company's board, and because he believed helping to create Ukraine's energy independence would help shield the country from Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

The Burisma post has become part of the focus of a [whistleblower's complaint](#) that claims President Trump contacted Ukrainian President Volodymyr to [investigate Hunter Biden and his father](#), a 2020 Democratic presidential candidate.

The allegations in the complaint led House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to launch an impeachment inquiry in the Democrat-majority House into the president.

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Trump and his allies have alleged that the former veep threatened to cancel \$1 billion in loan guarantees to Ukraine unless it sacked top prosecutor Viktor Shokin, who at the time was investigating Burisma.

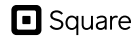
Ukraine's Parliament voted Shokin out of office in March 2016.

The US, a number of Western countries, the European Union and the International Monetary Fund had claimed that Shokin was not aggressively prosecuting high-profile corruption cases.

Ukrainian officials have said there was no evidence the Bidens engaged in any wrongdoing.

"Joe Biden proudly fought for reform in Ukraine and his achievement of a goal the U.S., EU, IMF, and entire Ukrainian anti-corruption community all strongly supported was a profound victory for good government there," Andrew Bates, a spokesman for the Biden campaign, said in a statement to the Washington Post.

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Hunter Biden served on the Burisma board from 2014 to 2018.

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|

From:Wade, David E
Sent:Fri, 17 Oct 2014 20:54:12 +0000
To:Hunter Biden (hbiden@rosemontseneca.com)
Subject:hey

Hunter: just wanted to say, you're a really good guy with a lot of fans who have worked with you, and obviously a really great family -- this too will pass.
Keep the faith,
David