



Today in Impeachment

A bulletin on recent news

White House Counsel McGahn met for 30 hours with Mueller’s investigators – what does this mean?

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Bob “Again” Carney Jr., editor

Contact: MeetToImpeach@gmail.com

8/20/18 Bulletin – [The NY Times reports](#) White House counsel, Donald McGahn met with Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigators for 30 hours, and “has cooperated extensively in the special counsel investigation, sharing detailed accounts..., including some that investigators would not have learned of otherwise...” McGahn and his attorney, William Burck, “could not understand why Mr. Trump was so willing to allow Mr. McGahn to speak freely to the special counsel and feared Mr. Trump was setting up Mr. McGahn to take the blame for any possible illegal acts of obstruction,” the NY Times said, and continued: “Mr. Burck said that Mr. McGahn had been obliged to cooperate with the special counsel. ‘President Trump, through counsel, declined to assert any privilege over Mr. McGahn’s testimony, so Mr. McGahn answered the special counsel team’s questions fulsomely and honestly,...’” [Vox reports](#) Trump is not happy with the [NY Times](#) article, citing “multiple increasingly angry tweets.” Not asserting privilege was seen as part of the White House’s earlier strategy to cooperate fully with Mr. Mueller, they thought since President Trump hadn’t done anything illegal, the investigation would soon be completed. Recently, the White House is reported to be reconsidering the wisdom of that approach. Mr. McGahn’s cooperation has been placed by some in the context of the Nixon White House Counsel John Dean, who also saw himself as “being set up” – and both cooperated with Watergate investigators and testified before a special Senate Watergate Committee; Dean eventually went to prison for obstruction of justice. McGahn is also reported to believe that his

client is the Presidency as an institution, as distinct from President Trump as a person. Both White House lawyer Emmet Flood and personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, two of President Trump's current legal team, are taking a tougher view on privilege – Flood reportedly contested Mueller's attempt to meet with Chief of Staff John Kelly.

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