



Takeaways from Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe's Testimony Today

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May 12, 2017

President Donald Trump said Thursday that he had already made a decision to fire ousted FBI Director James Comey before Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein wrote up a formal recommendation to do so.

Days before he was sacked by Trump, Comey had reportedly asked Rod J. Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general, for additional prosecutors and resources to amp up the FBI's investigation into Russian interference with the presidential election.

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) says that it's *time* for "an independent special prosecutor to investigate the Trump Administration's ties to Russian Federation". The Senate intelligence committee is also subpoenaing a number of Trump's associates for documents related to an investigation into Russia's interference in the election.

Sanders in an interview, said that the President told her that the then-FBI director assured him "on three separate occasions" that he was not under investigation.

Trump pointedly noted he was not referring to his campaign.

"It is no longer possible for the *FBI* to conduct its investigation into the Trump campaign's involvement in Russian electoral interference in any meaningfully independent way", said Julian Sanchez, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said she believed it was not a conflict of interest for a president to ask the Federal Bureau of Investigation chief such a question.

Democrats said Mr Trump's move echoed the Watergate scandal of the 1970s that eventually prompted the resignation of Richard Nixon as president. The New York Times Editorial Board penned an open letter to Rosenstein criticizing his memo to Trump, and many Senate Democrats have said they now regret voting for him.

Still, Trump maintained, "I know I am not under investigation".

The *White House* has vigorously defended the decision to remove Mr Comey despite condemnation from both parties in Washington.

The Associated Press reported that Comey sought additional resources for the Russian Federation investigation in the days before he was sacked.

It's hard to tell what's worse: that Trump thinks he can get away with it, or the fact that the justice department and his *White House* are so nakedly hiding the true reason for Comey's firing.

Afterwards, Burr said the committee had requested to meet with Rosenstein before Comey's departure, and that the circumstances of Comey's firing did not come up in their meeting. And at that *time*, he told me: "You are not under investigation". U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus resigned the same night. He did not make clear whether "frustrated with the outcome", refers to the Bureau's recommending no prosecution, or Comey's public statements on the subject.

It's unclear whether Rosenstein was aware his report would be used to justify the director's ouster. Mark Warner (D-VA) had briefed Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee that Comey had requested more resources, according to "two officials".