

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

March 8, 2019

Mr. Michael D. Monico
Monico & Spevack
20 S. Clark Street
Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Monico:

We write concerning contradictions between the testimony of your client, Michael D. Cohen, before the House Oversight and Reform Committee and media statements made by Chairman Adam Schiff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI). When Cohen's media advisor and attorney, Lanny J. Davis, initially met with our staff on behalf of Cohen on January 18, 2019, he indicated Cohen would only be testifying before our Committee.¹ This representation, of course, did not prove to be accurate. In addition to our Committee, Cohen testified before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and HPSCI.

Michael Cohen and Chairman Schiff seem to have provided conflicting versions of discussions they had in advance of Cohen's congressional testimony. During his testimony before our Committee, Cohen discussed how he prepared for his testimony, including talking with Members of Congress. Cohen testified he spoke to Chairman Schiff about "topics" for Cohen's upcoming testimony before HPSCI:

Mr. Jordan. Let me ask you one question... What did you talk to Mr. Schiff about?

Mr. Cohen. I spoke to Mr. Schiff about topics that were going to be raised at the upcoming hearing.²

However, in a subsequent interview on CBS News' *Face The Nation*, Chairman Schiff downplayed and contradicted Michael Cohen's testimony about the nature of their discussions, saying the conversations were limited to Cohen's security at the HPSCI hearing. Chairman Schiff explained:

¹ See Letter from Jim Jordan and Mark Meadows, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Guy Petrillo (Jan. 22, 2019).

² *Hearing with Michael Cohen, Former Attorney for President Donald Trump: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform*, 116th Cong. 121 (2019) (statement of Michael D. Cohen).

Margaret Brennan: Was that the extent of your contact [with Michael Cohen]?

Rep. Schiff: The extent of my contact was just inviting him to testify and also trying to allay his concerns about the President's threats against him and his family...³

These conflicting statements cannot both be true – either they discussed hearing “topics” or they did not. If Chairman Schiff’s communications with Cohen were, in fact, as limited as Chairman Schiff stated on *Face the Nation*, then we are faced with the potential that Cohen made another false statement during his testimony before the Committee.⁴

To assist us in evaluating the accuracy and truthfulness of Cohen’s testimony about his discussions with Chairman Schiff in advance of his testimony, please provide:

1. A complete description and account of all communications between Cohen and Chairman Schiff, including dates, times, and “topics” discussed; and
2. A complete description and account of all communications you, or other associates representing Cohen, including Lanny J. Davis, Guy Petrillo, or others, have had with Chairman Schiff or HPSCI regarding Michael Cohen’s testimony prior to his appearances before HPSCI on February 28, 2019, and March 6, 2019.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 22, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member



Mark Meadows
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight and Reform

³ *Face the Nation* (CBS News television broadcast March 3, 2019) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/transcript-rep-adam-schiff-on-face-the-nation-march-3-2019/>.

⁴ See Letter from Jim Jordan and Mark Meadows to William Barr, Attorney Gen., Dep’t of Justice (Feb. 28, 2019).