

Republican Perspective

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THE INTELLIGENCE LEAKS

“After all, you don't call Russia our No. 1 enemy -- not Al-Qaida, Russia -- unless you're still stuck in a Cold War mind warp.” Barack Obama

Progressives and the main stream media (MSM) see blood in the water. President Trump tweeted that he was the subject of wiretaps from ex-President Obama and they occurred just before the election. This has generated a MSM & Progressives fire storm.

Immediate reactions demanded “where is the proof?” Perhaps the proof lies in the reporting from the MSM. Conservative talk show host and author, Mark Levin outlined such reporting:

- New York Times, 1/20/17 (Inauguration Day) Front Page: “Intercepted Russian Communications Part of Inquiry into Trump Associates” - the article stated: *“The F.B.I. is leading the investigations, aided by the National Security Agency, the C.I.A. and the Treasury Department’s financial crimes unit. The investigators have accelerated their efforts in recent weeks but have found no conclusive evidence of wrongdoing, the officials said. One official said intelligence reports based on some of the wiretapped communications had been provided to the White House.”*
- The Guardian, a British newspaper, reported that the FBI applied for a Foreign Intelligence Security Act (FISA) warrant to investigate four members of the Trump campaign that had conversations with Russian officials.
- McClatchy News Service reported that the FBI and five other intelligence agencies (CIA, NSA, DoJ, Treasury Department’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and representatives of the national director of intelligence), collaborated for months in investigating Russian attempts to influence the election. The probe included whether money from the Kremlin covertly aided then President-elect Trump.
- New York Times reported that the Obama administration expanded the power of the NSA “to share globally intercepted personal communications with the government’s 16 other intelligence agencies before applying privacy protections.” Progressives should be pleased that these agencies are now able to listen to citizens phone calls and scour their emails all without a warrant.

Democrats are full-throated for their call for a special prosecutor. They have convinced themselves that Russia somehow manipulated the vote and this is why Hillary is a private citizen. Their accomplices in the MSM so want the public to believe this false narrative. But even the “alt-right” New York Times conceded: *“It is not clear whether the intercepted communications had anything to do with Mr. Trump’s campaign, or Mr. Trump himself. It is also unclear whether the inquiry has anything to do with an investigation into the hacking of the Democratic National Committee’s computers and other attempts to disrupt the elections in November.”*

As some have observed, perhaps the FISA surveillance authorization had to do with Trump associates. The MSM has reported that Paul Manafort, Roger Stone and Carter Page businesses might have had dealings with Russia. Why did the intelligence agencies not seek a FISA surveillance authorization for Tony Podesta? Mr. Podesta is a Democrat lobbyist who represented Sberbank, Russia’s largest bank. He was seeking to end one of Obama’s sanctions against Russia. His brother was Hillary’s national campaign chairman. Maybe they did seek a FISA warrant but why was it not leaked? The aroma is so sweet.

President Trump should demand that the FBI and the Justice Department show him the alleged FISA court surveillance applications. This is well within his purview as FISA surveillance is not law enforcement, it is national security. He would not be interfering with any judicial actions.

The public should be supporting the President in his attempts to discover national security leakers. The Congressional Research Service recently sent Congress a memo on what it considered to be legal and illegal contact with the MSM. The memo detailed crimes, with penalties, citing the Espionage Act. Specifically:

- It is a federal crime, punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years, to disclose national defense information to someone who is not entitled to receive it.
- It is a federal crime, punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years, to disclose classified information relating to U.S. or foreign communications intelligence activities.

Could the MSM be missing the real story? National Review’s Andrew McCarthy opines: “A sitting President, through his Justice Department and FBI, investigating the associate’s of the opposition party’s presidential nominee, and perhaps even the nominee himself, during the campaign. Can you imagine if the roles were reversed, and a Republican administration investigated officials tied to the Democrat’s nominee?”