

Republican Perspective
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DEMOCRAT INTRIGUE

“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe.” Albert Einstein

It's taken awhile but the case of Imran Awan is set for July 3rd before U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington, D.C. Mr. Awan is the information technology (IT) guru hired by former Democratic National Chairperson and Florida Congresswoman, Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The court filing said a plea agreement hearing is set for Mr. Awan and his wife.

By way of background, Mr. Awan was arrested by Washington's Capitol Police at Dulles International Airport in July of 2017. A grand jury in August, 2017 returned an indictment in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The grand jury charged Awan and his wife, Hina Alvi, with a total of four counts. Awan pleaded not guilty to all charges including federal bank fraud and conspiracy.

Due to the influence of Ms. Schultz, 30 House Democrats, including 10 from California hired the Awan to manage their computer technology. To assist in this work, Mr. Awan brought in 4 of his relatives, including brothers Jamal and Abid. The Daily Caller reported that the Awan family was paid \$4 million for their work since 2010. Note these are taxpayer dollars. The Washington Post reported that the “Awan family members were each paid between \$157,000 and \$168,000 that year (2016), making them among the highest-paid staffers on the Hill. The salary cap for a congressional staffer is \$174,000.”

While the Democrats have been singularly focused on Russia, Russia, Russia — they find nothing to say about the nefarious activities of the Awan team. The Capitol Police became concerned that the brothers routed data from numerous House Democrats to a secret server. The secret server was connected to the House Democratic Caucus, an organization chaired by then-Rep. Xavier Becerra, the current Attorney General for California.

The Capitol Police asked Becerra for a copy of the House Democratic Caucus server but were provided a falsified image. This caused the Awan's to be banned from the U.S. House network. Authorities considered the false image to be interference in a criminal investigation and that Awan was trying to cover-up his actions.

House Democrats shared the services of the Awan's an arrangement that is against House rules. Per the House Administration Committee, “House employees, including Shared Employees, shall not share their job duties with other individuals employed by

different Member or Committee offices or individuals who not on the House payroll.”
The House Inspector General (IG) warned against such sharing arrangements.

The House IG began tracking the logins of the Awan’s and discovered “massive” amounts of data leaving the networks of their Democrat employers. The Washington Post reported that of the documents they reviewed, the Awan’s logged on to the server for the Democratic Caucus more than 5,700 times over a 7-month period. The member of the Awan team authorized to access this server, only logged on less than 300 times.

After reviewing the IG report, the House Administration Committee and the office of the Democratic leader agreed to refer the matter to the Capitol Police and the FBI. A criminal investigation was launched.

Perhaps all of the IT activity of the Awan’s was routine political business. Regardless, this matter makes you wonder how members of Congress hire their staff. Not all of the Awan’s could be considered information technology professionals at the time of hiring. We will know more after July 3.