

Republican Perspective

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THE MIDYEAR EXAM

*“Those of us in law enforcement must redouble our efforts to resist bias and prejudice.”
James Comey, former FBI Director*

The Department of Justice’s Inspector General’s (IG) report on the Hillary Clinton email investigation damages the credibility of FBI headquarters. The Midyear, as the investigation was known to the FBI, focused on the actions of the FBI and the Department of Justice in connection with the investigation into former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton’s use of a private email server. The Midyear is a voluminous 568 pages.

Regardless of your political persuasion, the IG lays bare the bias of high level FBI employees toward then presidential candidate Donald Trump. The actions of former FBI Director James Comey should stain his legacy. Democrats and the main stream media want you to takeaway one of the IG’s conclusion’s: “we did not find documentary or testimonial evidence that improper considerations, including political bias, directly affected the specific investigative decisions.”

Democrats gloss over the IG’s premise that it was not his job to determine whether or not a decision was correct but only if it was reasonable. Per the report: “Thus, a determination by the OIG that a decision was not unreasonable does not mean that the OIG has endorsed the decision or concluded that the decision was the most effective among the options considered.”

From this Republican’s Perspective, some of the Midyear nuggets:

COMEY

The IG said Comey violated longstanding department practice to avoid “trashing people we’re not charging.” Regarding his July 5, 2016 press conference, the IG “found that it was extraordinary and insubordinate for Comey to do so, and we found none of his reasons to be a persuasive basis for deviating from well-established Department policies in a way intentionally designed to avoid supervision by Department leadership over his actions.”

We learn that Comey used a private email account to conduct official FBI business. Hmm... isn’t that why he was investigating Clinton? Further, he didn’t grasp the significance of the hundreds of thousands of Clinton emails being found on disgraced Democrat Anthony Weiner’s private computer because he didn’t know that Weiner was married to Clinton aide Huma Abedin! Beam me up!

FBI OFFICIALS

The thousands of texts between senior FBI official Peter Strzok and his mistress, FBI attorney Lisa Page reflect a contemptuous dislike towards candidate Trump and a fondness for Clinton.

They caused concern with the IG: “We were deeply troubled by text messages sent by Strzok and Page that potentially indicated or created the appearance that investigative decisions were impacted by bias or improper considerations. Nonetheless, when one senior FBI official, Strzok, who was helping to lead the Russia investigation at the time, conveys in a text message to another senior FBI official, Page, that “we’ll stop” candidate Trump from being elected—after other extensive text messages between the two disparaging candidate Trump—it is not only indicative of a biased state of mind but, even more seriously, implies a willingness to take official action to impact the presidential candidate’s electoral prospects. This is antithetical to the core values of the FBI and the Department of Justice...these text messages led us to conclude that we did not have confidence that Strzok’s decision was free from bias.”

None of the text messages reviewed by the IG were pro-Trump.

The FBI appears to have had an institutional habit of developing cozy relationships with media reporters. “We identified numerous FBI employees, at all levels of the organization and with no official reason to be in contact with the media, were nevertheless in frequent contact with reporters,” the report states. “In addition, we identified instances where FBI employees improperly received benefits from reporters, including tickets to sporting events, golfing outings, drinks and meals, and admittance to nonpublic social events.” One FBI executive was caught having had 26 conversations with one reporter and seven conversations with another reporter.

Such was the FBI culture under the leadership of Obama-Holder-Lynch-Comey.

CLINTON EMAILS:

The IG says that only 13 individuals had direct email contact with Clinton. One stands out:

“FBI analysts and Prosecutor 2 told us that former President Barack Obama was one of the 13 individuals with whom Clinton had direct contact using her clintonemail.com account. Obama, like other high-level government officials, used a pseudonym for his username on his official government email account.”

Clinton used her private email for “an exchange with then President Obama while in the territory of a foreign adversary.” This led investigators to believe hostile actors had likely gained access to her server. In 2015, President Obama told America he only learned that Clinton was illegally using a private email server to conduct public business after The New York Times published a story saying so. I suppose he didn’t lie but just misspoke.

The IG's Midyear makes one wonder if the current FBI Director can restore the agency's trust. Will the swamp ever be drained?