

**Republican Perspective**  
**6 February 2019**  
**by Ed Manning**

**HIGH-LEVEL CORRUPTION**

*"It is not the young people that degenerate; they are not spoiled till those of mature age are already sunk into corruption." Montesquieu, French political philosopher*

On August 29, 2018 Bruce Ohr, former associate deputy attorney general and fourth-ranking official in the Department of Justice (DOJ), gave a closed-door testimony to the House's Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Thanks to [TheHill.com](http://TheHill.com) opinion reporter, John Solomon, we now learn more about the corruption within the DOJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Shortly before Ohr's testimony, the New York Times tried to get House investigators to look elsewhere. The Times claimed it was a "conspiracy theory" that Ohr had a role in the Trump infamous Russian dossier. Ohr proved the Times wrong (again).

Both senior FBI and DOJ officials were briefed by Ohr in summer 2016 about Christopher Steele's Russian dossier. They were told that Steele's opposition research was connected to Hillary Clinton's campaign and might be biased.

Ohr said that he met with Steele on July 30, 2016 at a Washington, D.C. hotel. Steele at that time was working for Fusion GPS, the opposition research firm hired by the Democrat National Committee (DNC). Ohr's wife worked for Fusion GPS. Ohr testified:

"I wanted to provide the information he had given me to the FBI. I reached out for Andrew McCabe, at that time, deputy director of the FBI and somebody who had previously led the organized crime, Russian organized crime squad in New York and who I had worked with in the past, and asked if he could meet with me. I went to his office to provide the information, and Lisa Page was there. So I provided the information to them. And some point after that, I think, I was given Peter Strzok, or somehow put in contact with Peter Strzok."

McCabe, Page and Strzok have since been fired.

Ohr also provided details about his meetings with Steele to DOJ officials. From his testimony:

"One of them was Bruce Swartz, who is the counselor for international affairs in the Criminal Division; a person who was working with him at the time, working

on similar matters in the Criminal Division, was Zainab Ahmad; and a third person who was working on some — some of these matters, I believe, was Andrew Weissmann.”

At the time, Weissmann was head of the DOJ's Criminal Division's fraud section. He is now part of Mueller's special prosecutor team and is generally known as the “pit bull.” Weissmann is credited for destroying the 85,000-employee Arthur Andersen accounting firm. In a rare unanimous decision, the Supreme Court overturned the conviction he got. The Wall St. Journal reported that Weissmann attended Hillary Clinton's election night party in New York City. After Acting Attorney General Sally Yates refused to enforce President Trump's Middle East travel ban, Weissmann emailed her: “I am so proud. And in awe. Thank you so much. All my deepest respects.” Zainab Ahmad now works for Mueller. She previously worked for none other than Obama's Attorney General Loretta Lynch. No anti-Trump bias exists in Mueller's team!

Ohr testified that he repeatedly made it clear to the FBI that Steele's information was not verified, risked bias, and had been obtained under political circumstances. Asked if the DOJ and FBI were aware of Steele's bias against Donald Trump, Ohr said:

“I provided information to the FBI when I thought Christopher Steele was, as I said, desperate that Trump not be elected. So, yes, of course, I provided that to the FBI. So when I provided it to the FBI, I tried to be clear that this is source information. I don't know how reliable it is. You're going to have to check it out and be aware. These guys were hired by somebody relating to — who's related to the Clinton campaign, and be aware —“

Ohr also admitted he was talking to top DOJ officials about his chats with Steele and Fusion GPS' Glenn Simpson.

Why is Ohr's testimony important? It suggests that not only did top FBI officials know about the Russian dossier, but so did top Justice Department officials. The Steele dossier, an unverified Clinton-campaign product, was the driving force behind the Trump–Russia investigation. Steele was paid over \$160,000 by the DNC through its law firm Perkins Coie.

Ohr's testimony refutes the efforts by Adam Schiff, Democrat House Select Committee member to downplay his involvement with Steele. Ohr's testimony contradicts Schiff's claims that he didn't brief the FBI on his contacts with Steele and the dossier until AFTER the election and AFTER the initial FISA warrant was obtained on Carter Page.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) was not told that the Clinton campaign was behind Steele's dossier. Nor did the FBI and Justice Department inform the court that Steele's allegations had never been verified. Based on the dossier, the FBI told the FISC it believed that Carter Page, who had been identified by the Trump campaign as an adviser, was coordinating with the Russian government in an

espionage conspiracy to influence the 2016 election. Carter Page, whom the FBI spied on for at least a year, has not been charged with any crime.

Former FBI Director James Comey, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, former Deputy Director of the FBI Andrew McCabe, and former Attorney General Sally Yates were all required to sign off on the FISC warrant application before it was reviewed and ultimately approved.

Will the DOJ's Inspector General have the intestinal fortitude to clean-up the malfeasance?