

Comey sought more Russia resources before firing

President Trump says both parties will thank him

By ERIC TUCKER, EILEEN SULLIVAN and JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the days before his firing by President Donald Trump, FBI Director James Comey told U.S. lawmakers he had asked the Justice Department for more resources to pursue the bureau's investigation into Russia's interference in last year's presidential election, three U.S. officials said today.

The officials said Comey met last week with Rod Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general, to make the request. Comey then alerted lawmakers with ties to the concurrent congressional investigations into Russia's meddling, according to the officials, who insisted on anonymity in order to disclose the private conversations.

Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said it was false that Comey had asked Rosenstein for money for the Russia investigation.

The revelations raise new questions about what prompted Trump's decision to fire Comey. The White House has cited a memo from Rosenstein, in which he criticizes Comey's handling of last year's investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton's email practices.

Rosenstein's memo makes no mention of the FBI's Russia investigation, which is probing both Russia's hacking of Democratic groups last year and whether Trump campaign associates had ties to Moscow's election interference.

Defending decision

Trump defended his decision today, asserting in a flurry of tweets that both Democrats and Republicans "will be thanking me" for his action. He did not mention any effect the dismissal might have on the FBI and congressional investigations into contacts between his 2016 election campaign and Russia.

"He wasn't doing a good job. Very simply. He was not doing a good job," Trump said in brief remarks to reporters in the Oval Office, where he was joined by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

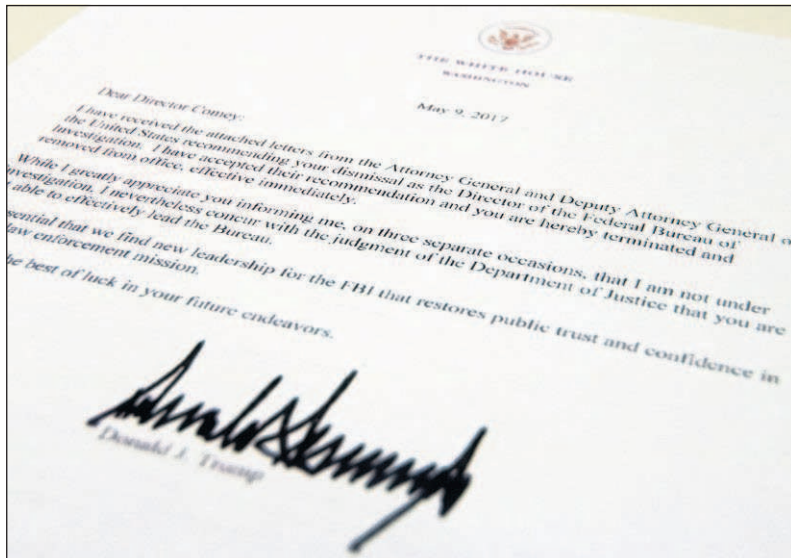
The abrupt firing of Comey threw into question the future of the FBI's investigation and immediately raised suspicions of an underhanded effort to stymie a probe that has shadowed the administration from the outset. Trump has ridiculed the investigations as "a hoax" and denied any campaign involvement with the Russians.

Democrats compared Comey's ouster to President Richard Nixon's "Saturday Night Massacre" during the Watergate investigation and renewed



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

President Donald Trump talks to reporters during a meeting with Dr. Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state and national security adviser under President Richard Nixon, at the White House today in Washington.



AP Photo/Jon Elswick

The termination letter from President Donald Trump.

calls for the appointment of a special prosecutor.

Ironically, Kissinger, who was meeting with Trump, was Nixon's secretary of state in 1973, just moved over from being Nixon's national security adviser.

Earlier today, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York urged Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his deputy, Rosenstein, to appear before the Senate to answer questions about the circumstances surrounding Trump's action.

However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell brushed aside calls for a special prosecutor, saying a new investigation into Russian meddling would only "impede the current work being done." He noted that Democrats had repeatedly criticized Comey and some had called for his removal.

Trump made a case on Twitter, saying Comey had "lost the confidence of almost everyone in Washington," adding: "When things calm down, they will be thanking me!"

Vice President Mike Pence said at the Capitol that Trump had made "the right decision at the right time."

The Justice Department said Sessions was interviewing candidates to serve as an interim replacement. Comey's deputy, FBI veteran Andrew McCabe, became acting director after Comey was fired.

Restoring 'trust'

In his letter Tuesday to Comey, Trump said the firing was necessary to restore "public trust and confidence" in the FBI. The administration paired the letter with a scathing review by Rosenstein, the recently



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

FBI Director James Comey listens on Capitol Hill in Washington earlier this month. President Donald Trump has fired Comey. In a statement Tuesday, Trump says Comey's firing "will mark a new beginning" for the FBI.

confirmed deputy attorney general, of how Comey handled the investigation into Clinton's email practices, including his decision to hold a news conference announcing its findings and releasing "derogatory information" about Clinton.

"You can't make this stuff up," Rep. Adam Schiff of California, top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said today on MSNBC. As to Trump's contention that the firing had to do with Comey's decision-making on such matters as the Clinton emails, he said, "Nobody believes that."

Trump, in his letter, pointedly thanked Comey for telling him three times "that I am not under investigation." The FBI has not confirmed that Comey ever made those assurances to the president. In public hearings, Comey has declined to answer when asked if Trump is under investigation, urging lawmakers not to read anything into that statement.

While Comey has drawn anger from Democrats since he reopened the email investigation in the closing days of last year's campaign, they didn't buy that justification for his firing. Several Republicans joined them in raising alarms of how it could affect probes into possible coordination between Trump associates and Russia to influence the election.

In one of the strongest statements by Republicans, Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, said, "I am troubled by the timing and reasoning of Director Comey's termination."

"His dismissal further confuses an already difficult investigation by the committee," Burr said.

Schumer told Trump in a phone call he thought dumping Comey was a mistake. Today, Trump labeled the Senate minority leader "Cryin' Chuck Schumer."

Trump will now appoint a successor at the FBI, who will almost certainly have an impact on how the probe moves forward and whether the public will accept its outcome.

It was only the second firing of an FBI director in history. President Bill Clinton dismissed William Sessions amid allegations of lapses in 1993.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona said Congress must form a special committee to investigate Russia's interference in the election.

Nominated in 2013

Comey, 56, was nominated by President Barack Obama for the FBI post in 2013 to a 10-year term, though that appointment does not ensure a director will serve the full term.

Praised frequently by both parties for his independence and integrity, he spent three decades in law enforcement. Before the past months' controversies, the former deputy attorney general in the George W. Bush administration was perhaps best known for a remarkable 2004 standoff with top officials over a federal domestic surveillance program. In March of that year, Comey rushed to the hospital bed of Attorney General John Ashcroft to physically stop White House officials in their bid to get his ailing boss to reauthorize a secret no-warrant wire-tapping program.

But his prominent role in the 2016 presidential campaign raised questions about his judgment and impartiality. Though the FBI did not recommend charges against Clinton for mishandling classified information, Comey was blisteringly critical of her decision to use a personal email account and private internet server during her four years as secretary of state.

Comey strongly defended his decisions during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing last week. He said he was "mildly nauseous" at the thought of having swayed the election but also said he would do the same again.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Evening listings
WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING													MAY 10	
A - Charter Astoria/Seaside L - Charter Long Beach														
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Goldbergs (N)	Speechless (N)	Modern Family (N)	Black-ish (SF) (N)	Designated Survivor "Bombshell" (N)	KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel		
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Goldbergs (N)	Speechless (N)	Modern Family (N)	Black-ish (SF) (N)	Designated Survivor "Bombshell" (N)	KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel		
6	KOIN	(6) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Blindspot "Mom" (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Spellbound" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Army of One" (N)			KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show		
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Survivor: Game Changers (N)	Criminal Minds "Red Light" (SF) (N)	Crim. Minds: Borders "Obey" (N)			KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) Colbert		
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at 7	Inside Edition	Blindspot "Mom" (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Spellbound" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Army of One" (N)			KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show		
9	KRCW	(9) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Arrow "Honor Thy Fathers" (N)	The 100 "The Other Side" (N)	KGW News at 10	Two and a Half		Two and a Half	Met Your Mother		
10	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Nature	Nova "Arctic Ghost Ship"	Plants Behaving "Sex and Lies" (N)			Is America in Retreat?			
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Shots Fired "Hour 8: Rock Bottom" (N)	Empire "Absent Child" (N)	10 O'Clock News			11 O'Clock News	2 Broke Girls		
13	KPDZ	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	Family Guy	Family Guy		American Dad	Cleveland Show		
14	KCPQ	(14) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Shots Fired "Hour 8: Rock Bottom" (N)	Empire "Absent Child" (N)	Q13 News at 10			Q13 News	The Simpsons		
16	TBS	(16) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory		Full Frontal (N)	Conan (N)		
17	KZJN	(17) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9			Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends Pt. 1 of 2	
19	ESPN2	(19) (4:00) MLB Baseball St. Louis vs Miami (L)		Baseball Tonight (L)		SportsCenter		SportsCenter			SportsCenter			
20	ESPN2	(20) (5:00) 30 for 30 "The Two Escobars"		30 for 30 "Catholics vs. Convicts"				We the Fans/ Soldier			Jalen & Jacoby (N)	30 for 30 "Belieband"		
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	NickyRickyDicky	Game Shakers 1/2	Full House	Full House		Full House	Friends	Friends	
32	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Bizaardvark	K.C. Undercover	(35) Bizaardvark	Good Luck Charlie		Tangled-Series	K.C. Undercover		Liv Maddie Cali	Bunk'd	Jessie	
34	FAM	(34) The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	**** Aladdin '92	Voices of Scott Weinger, Linda Larkin, Robin Williams.		Disney's Fairy Tale Weddings					The 700 Club	
35	FMC	(35) (4:45) *** Unbroken '14	(Bio) Finn Wittrock, Jack O'Connell.	(35) *** Unbroken (2014, Biography)	Finn Wittrock, Jai Courtney, Jack O'Connell.			(25) FXM Presents	**** Chronicle (2012, Drama)	Alex Russell, Dane DeHaan.				
36	LIFE	(36) Little Women: Atlanta "Stage Fight"		LW Atlanta "Good Deed Gone Bad"		Little Women ATL "Miami Vices" (N)		LW Atlanta "Cruise Control" (N)			Little W. Dallas "Mini-Disaster" (SF) (N)	Little W (N)	(05) Little W	
38	ROOT	(38) (5:30) MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Philadelphia Phillies Site: Citizens Bank Park -- Philadelphia, Pa.		Post-game		In Depth (N)		Triathlon 2016 Island House Invitational	UFC Unleashed		Souza vs. Belfort" (N)	Main Event (N)		
39	F51	(39) TUF 25 "Iron Sharpens Iron"		The Ultimate Fighter "Piece of Us" (N)		TUF Talk (N)		MLB Whiparound (L)			UFC Top Ten	The Ultimate Fighter "Piece of Us"	TUF Talk	
40	SPIKE	(40) (5:00) Bedtime Stories Adam Sandler.		*** Happy Gilmore '96	Com) Christopher McDonald, Julie Bowen, Adam Sandler.	*** The Longest Yard (2005, Comedy)		Chris Rock, Burt Reynolds, Adam Sandler.					Movie	
44	COM	(44) (15) Futurama "(50) South Park "Conjoined Fetus Lady" (25) South Park		South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	ComedyJam (N)	South Park		South Park	The Daily Show (N) @midnight (N)		
45	HIST	(45) American Pickers "Good and Evil"		American Pickers "Signs of Struggle"		American Pickers "Jersey's Jackpot"		American Pickers "Picker's Code"			(05) American Pickers "Hello Jell-O"	(05) American Pickers "Mike's Bikes"		
46	A&E	(46) The First 48 "The Chase/ One Shot"		Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)		Exterminator (N)	Exterminator (N)	(05) Storage Wars (35) Storage Wars	
47	TLC	(47) My 600-lb Life "Nikki" Pt. 1 of 2		My 600-lb Life "Nikki" Pt. 2 of 2		My 600-lb Life "Dottie and June"		Dottie's weight loss journey is in danger.					My 600-lb Life "Dottie and June"	
48	DISC	(48) The Last Alaskans "Killer Instinct"		The Last Alaskans "Spirit of the Hunter"		The Last Alaskans "Pray for Snow"		Last Alaskan "Race Against the Sun" (N)			Where the Wild Men Are "Texas"	Bush People "Dead in the Water"		
49	NGEO	(49) Alaska Troopers "Armed and Squatting"		Life and Death Row "Truth"		Life and Death Row "Crisis Stage"		Life and Death Row "Judgment"			Life and Death Row "Execution"	Life on Lockdown "Notorious"		
50	TNT	(50) (4:00) NBA Basketb. NBA Basketball Playoffs						Inside the NBA			NBA Basketball Playoffs			
51	AAC	(51) (5:30) *** Lethal Weapon (1987, Action) Danny Glover, Gary Busey, Mel Gibson.		*** Lethal Weapon 2 (1989, Action) Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.		*** Independence Day (1996, Sci-Fi) Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum, Will Smith.		*** Speed (1994, Action) Sandra Bullock, Keanu Reeves.			*** Tropic Thunder (2008, Comedy) Jack Black, Ben Stiller.			
52	USA	(52) (5:00) *** The Other Guys (2010, Comedy) Will Ferrell.												
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped		Chopped		Cooks vs. Cons "Fry, Fry Again!"		Cooks vs. Cons "Cajun Nation" (N)			Cooks vs. Cons "Crab Cake Crazy"		Cooks vs. Cons "Gone Bananas"	
54	HGTV	(54) Buying and Selling "Lesson in Location"		Buying and Selling		Property "Rustic Meets Modern Design"		Buying/Sell "Michelle and Danielle" (N)			House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	Property Brothers	
56	FX	(56) (4:00) Total Recall		Transformers: Age of Extinction (2014, Action) Nicola Peltz, Jack Reynor, Mark Wahlberg.				Fargo "The Narrow Escape Problem" (N)				(10) Fargo "The Narrow Escape Problem"		
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360			Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	(58) The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight		The Five			Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Rich Guide (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank			Filthy Rich Guide		Paid Program	
63	BRAV	(63) The Real Housewives "A New Low"		Wives "The Etiquette of Friendship"		Housewives "The Politics of Friendship"		Housewives "Wishful Invitation" (N)			Andy Cohen's Then and Now (N)		WatchWhat (N)	
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Cover Girl (44) Rita Hayworth.		*** How to Marry a Millionaire '53)	Betty Grable, Marilyn Monroe.	*** The French Line '54, Musical)	Gilbert Roland, Arthur Hunnicut, Jane Russell.						Real Housewives	
65	SYFY	(65) *** I, Frankenstein (2014, Fantasy) Aaron Eckhart, Bill Nighy, Yvonne Strahovski.		*** The Da Vinci Code (2006, Drama) Audrey Tautou, Jean Reno, Tom Hanks.									Odd Thomas '13, Com) Anton Yelchin.	
69	RFD	(69) (62) Where the Fast Lane Ends		W. Rodeo (N)		Equestrian Nation		Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News		The Final Spin	WesternSport	Cowboy TV	
													Cowboy Moments	
													Product Showcase	

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