

# Cohen: Trump knew about WikiLeaks dump

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL R. SISAK  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer told Congress today that Trump knew ahead of time that WikiLeaks had emails damaging to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, and he testified that Trump is a "racist," a "conman" and a "cheat."

Michael Cohen suggested that Trump also implicitly told him to lie about a Moscow real estate project. Cohen has pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about the project, which he says Trump knew about as Cohen was negotiating with Russia during the 2016 election campaign.

The hearing was expected to produce the most damning depiction to date of Trump's campaign and business operations from a onetime member of the president's inner circle. It is the latest step in Cohen's evolution from legal fixer for the president — he once boasted he'd "take a bullet" for Trump — to a foe who has implicated him in federal campaign finance violations.

"I am ashamed of my weakness and misplaced loyalty, of the things I did for Mr. Trump in an effort to

protect and promote him," Cohen said. "I am ashamed that I chose to take part in concealing Mr. Trump's illicit acts rather than listening to my own conscience. I am ashamed because I know what Mr. Trump is."

Cohen's claims that Trump had advance knowledge of the emails contradict the president's assertions that he was in the dark, but it was not clear what evidence Cohen had to support the allegation or even how legally problematic it would be for Trump. Special counsel Robert Mueller has not suggested that mere awareness of WikiLeaks' plans, as Trump confidant Roger Stone is purported to have had, is by itself a crime.

Underscoring the deeply partisan nature of the proceedings, Democrats on the House Oversight and Reform Committee lifted an earlier restriction that the hearing not delve into Russia, while Republicans tried unsuccessfully to block the hearing as it got underway, on grounds that Cohen had not provided his opening statement long enough in advance.

The committee's top Republican, Rep. Jim Jordan, of Ohio, sought early on to undermine Cohen's credibility by calling him a "fraudster, cheat" and "a convicted felon." "Certainly it's the first time a



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite  
**Michael Cohen testifies before the House Oversight and Reform Committee.**

convicted perjurer has been brought back to be a star witness at a hearing," Jordan said.

Cohen said Trump did not directly tell him to lie, but "he would look me in the eye and tell me there's no business in Russia and then go out and lie to the American people by saying the same thing."

Cohen said that "in his way, he was telling me to lie." He added that lawyers for Trump had "reviewed and edited" the statement in which Cohen falsely said a proposal for a Trump Tower in Moscow had

been abandoned in January 2016. Cohen has since said he continued pursuing the project for Trump for months after that.

Trump, at a Vietnam hotel before a planned meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and unable to ignore the drama playing out thousands of miles away, lashed out at Cohen on Twitter, saying his lawyer "did bad things unrelated to Trump" and "is lying in order to reduce his prison time."

A judge already has set Cohen's sentence, and Cohen's cooperation will have no bearing on that term. Cohen, ahead of his appearance, said Tuesday that the American people could decide "exactly who is telling the truth" when he testified before the House committee.

On WikiLeaks, Cohen said in the prepared testimony that he was in Trump's office in July 2016 when longtime adviser Roger Stone telephoned Trump. Trump put Stone on speakerphone and Stone told him that he had communicated with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and that "within a couple of days, there would be a massive dump of emails that would damage Hillary Clinton's campaign," according to Cohen.

Trump responded by saying "wouldn't that be great,"

Cohen said.

That month, WikiLeaks released thousands of emails hacked from the Democratic National Committee's server.

"A lot of people have asked me about whether Mr. Trump knew about the release of the hacked Democratic National Committee emails ahead of time," Cohen said in the prepared testimony. "The answer is yes."

Cohen said he does not have direct evidence that Trump colluded with the Russian government during the election, but that he has "suspicions." Of a meeting in Trump Tower between campaign advisers, including Trump's oldest son, and a Russian lawyer, Cohen said that Trump had frequently told him that Donald Trump Jr. "had the worst judgment of anyone in the world" and he "would never set up any meeting of any significance alone — and certainly not without checking with his father."

Cohen, once Trump's loyal attorney, has turned on his former boss and cooperated with Mueller's Russia investigation. He begins a three-year prison sentence in May after pleading guilty to lying to Congress in 2017 and committing campaign finance violations while working for Trump.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

*Associated Press*

### Stormwater floods California towns only reachable by boat

GUERNEVILLE, Calif. — Two communities north of San Francisco were accessible only by boat today after a rain-swollen river overflowed its banks and inundated them overnight, authorities said.

One of them, the small city of Guerneville, "is officially an island," the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office said. A short time later, the nearby town of Monte Rio was also isolated by floodwaters with all roads leading to it swamped.

The swollen Russian River was forecast to swell more throughout the day, engorged by days of rain from western U.S. storms that has also dumped heavy snow in the Sierra Nevada, throughout the Pacific Northwest and into Montana.

Other waterways, including the Napa River, also were expected to overflow their banks as an ocean-spanning plume of moisture continued tracking through the West. Snow from the storms closed roads and schools and topped trucks and trees from Oregon to Montana.

### Trump, Kim share smiles, dinner before nuke talks

HANOI, Vietnam — President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, leaders of two nations with a long history of hostility, opened their second summit today with smiles, hopeful talk and a friendly dinner that set the stage for the much more difficult talks to come about curbing North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Facing widespread skepticism about whether they can solve a problem that has bedeviled generations of diplomats and officials, the two men exchanged a warm handshake before a phalanx of alternating American and North Korean flags before holding a 30-minute one-on-one talk. Their talks will continue on Thursday.

The two leaders were joined for dinner by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, Kim Yong Chol, a former military spy chief and Kim's point man in negotiations, and North Korean Foreign Affairs Minister Ri Yong Ho. Interpreters for each side also attended.

Trump has been trying to convince Kim that his nation could thrive economically like the host country, Vietnam, if he would end his nuclear weapons program.

### Criminal charges in North Carolina congressional race

RALEIGH, N.C. — The North Carolina political operative at the center of a ballot fraud scandal was arrested today on criminal charges over activities in the 2016 elections and the Republican primary in 2018.

Leslie McCrae Dowless Jr. was arrested after grand jury indictments alleging illegal possession of absentee ballots and obstruction of justice. North Carolina law makes it illegal for anyone other than the voter or a close relative to handle a mail-in ballot.

Dowless' workers in rural Bladen County testified that they were directed to collect blank or incomplete ballots, forge signatures on them and even fill in votes for local candidates.

The board has ordered a new election for the 9th Congressional District but hasn't set a date.

### House OKs Democrats' bill blocking Trump emergency on wall

WASHINGTON — House Democrats have ignored a veto threat and passed legislation that would stymie President Donald Trump's bid for billions of extra dollars for a U.S.-Mexico border wall. The move has escalated a clash over whether he has abused his powers to advance the signature pledge of his 2016 campaign.

The House's 245-182 vote Tuesday to block Trump's national emergency declaration fell well below the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override what would be the first veto of Trump's presidency. Thirteen Republicans backed the Democrats' measure as top Republicans worked to keep defections as low as possible, wanting to avoid a tally suggesting that Trump's hold on lawmakers was weakening.

The issue is now before the Republican-run Senate, where there already were enough GOP defections to edge the resolution to the brink of passage. Vice President Mike Pence used a lunch with Republican senators at the Capitol to try keeping them aboard, citing a crisis at the border, but there were no signs he had succeeded.

The showdown was forcing Republicans to cast uncomfortable votes pitting their support for a president popular with GOP voters against fears that his use of emergency powers would invite future Democratic presidents to do likewise.

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# TV SCHEDULE

### Evening listings

WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING												FEBRUARY 27													
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	A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach											
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Schooled (N)	Modern Family (N)	Single Parents (N)	Whiskey Cavalier "Pilot" (P) (N)		News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel												
5	KING	(5) KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Survivor: Edge of Extinction (N)	The World's Best "The Battle Round, Part 2" (N)		Chicago P.D. "The Forgotten" (N)		News (N)	(35) Tonight Show												
6	KOIN	(7) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Survivor: Edge of Extinction (N)	The World's Best "The Battle Round, Part 2" (N)			Chicago P.D. "The Forgotten" (N)		News (N)	(35) Colbert												
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Survivor: Edge of Extinction (N)	The World's Best "The Battle Round, Part 2" (N)			Chicago P.D. "The Forgotten" (N)		News (N)	(35) Colbert												
8	KGW	(7) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Chic.Med "Old Flames, New Sparks" (N)	Chicago Fire "Fault in Him" (N)			Chicago P.D. "The Forgotten" (N)		News (N)	(35) Tonight Show												
9	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Riverdale (N)	All American "Legacy" (N)			News (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half												
10	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature "Yosemite"	Nova "Great Human Odyssey" Research sheds light on humanity's origins.			News (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half												
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Masked Singer "Road to the Finals" (N)	Singer "The Final Mask is Lifted" (SF) (N)			10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV												
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	8pm Prime News (N)	9pm Prime News (N)			Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game												
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Masked Singer "Road to the Finals" (N)	Singer "The Final Mask is Lifted" (SF) (N)			Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons												
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal (N)	Conan (N)	Full Frontal												
22	KZJO	(22) Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half												
29	ESPN	(29) (5:00) NBA Basketball	Detroit Pistons at San Antonio Spurs (L)	NBA Basketball	New Orleans Pelicans at Los Angeles Lakers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)	(55) After Buzzer /:(10) SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)			NFL Live		Now or Never (N)	NBA Basketball												
30	ESPN2	(30) NCAA Basketball	Louisville at Boston College (L)	NAIA Basketball CCC Tournament Championship		NAIA Basketball CCC Tournament Championship				TMZ Sports (N)	PBC Face to Face	NCAA Basketball Marquette vs Villanova													
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger 2/3	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	The Office 1/2	The Office 2/2	Friends	Friends												
32	DISN	(32) Coop & Cami	Coop & Cami	Kim Possible (2019, Family)	Sean Giambrone, Sadie Stanley.	(35) Coop & Cami	Raven's Home 1/2	Raven's Home 2/2	Sydney to the Max	Coop & Cami		Andi Mack	Raven's Home												
34	FAM	(34) ** Happy Gilmore	(96, Com) Christopher McDonald, Julie Bowen, Adam Sandler.	Grown-ish (N)	** The 40-Year-Old Virgin	(2005, Comedy) Catherine Keener, Paul Rudd, Steve Carell.							The 700 Club												
35	FMC	(35) (4:35) Elysium	(13) (5:0) ** Elysium	(2013, Action) Jodie Foster, Sharlto Copley, Matt Damon.	(:05) ** Spectre	(2015, Action) Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux, Daniel Craig.	(:05) ** Spectre	(2015, Action) Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux, Daniel Craig.					(:55) FXM Presents												
36	LIFE	(36) Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's "What a Difference a Day Makes"	Runway "Pennies from Heaven" (N)	Project Runway "All-Inclusive" (N)				(:05) Am. Beauty Star "Inspired By" (N)	(:05) Project Runway "All-Inclusive"														
38	ROOT	(38) NCAA Basketball	Louisville at Boston College (L)	NAIA Basketball CCC Tournament Championship		NAIA Basketball CCC Tournament Championship				TMZ Sports (N)	PBC Face to Face	NCAA Basketball Marquette vs Villanova													
39	FS1	(39) NCAA Basketball	Marquette vs. Villanova (L)	Fox College Hoops	Speak for Yourself	Fair Game				TMZ Sports (N)	PBC Face to Face	NCAA Basketball Marquette vs Villanova													
43	SPIKE	(43) Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	** Dirty Grandpa	(2016, Comedy) Zac Efron, Julianne Hough, Robert De Niro.			** Dirty Grandpa	(2016, Comedy) Zac Efron, Robert De Niro.	The Daily Show (N)	(:35) Corporate												
44	COM	(44) (15) South Park	(50) South Park "Asspen"	(25) South Park		South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N)	(:35) Corporate												
45	HIST	(45) Forged in Fire	"The Yatagan"	Forged in Fire	"The Schiavona"	Forged in Fire: Cutting Deeper (N)	Forged in Fire	"The O-Katana" (N)	(:05) Knight Fight (N)			(:05) Forged in Fire	"Butterfly Swords"												
47	TLC	(47) My 600-lb Life	"Maja's Story"	My 600-lb Life	"Tiffany's Story" Tiffany finds it hard not to eat while depressed. (N)	Family by the Ton (N)				(:05) Biography		(:05) Biography													
48	DISC	(48) Moonshiners	"Breaking the Laws"	Mnshiner	"Moonshiner's Apprentice"	Moonshiners	"Hillbilly Ingenuity" (N)	Moonshiners (N)	To Be Announced			Mnshiner	"Secret Backwoods Recipes"												
49	NGEO	(49) Life and Death Row	"In Cold Blood"	Locked Up	Abroad "Venezuela Hustle"	Locked Up	"The Guru of Hash" (N)	Locked Up	Abroad "Panamania" (N)			Locked Up	Abroad "Panamania"												
50	TNT	(50) (15) *** Django Unchained	(2012, Western) Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx.							Drop the Mic (N)	Joker's Wild (N)	Law Abiding Citizen	(09) Jamie Foxx.												
51	AMC	(51) (5:00) ** Enemy of the State	(98, Action) Gene Hackman, Jon Voight, Will Smith.	** Twister	(1996, Action) Bill Paxton, Jami Gertz, Helen Hunt.	** Twister	(1996, Action) Bill Paxton, Jami Gertz, Helen Hunt.			(:35) *** The Breakfast Club	(85) Judd Nelson.														
52	USA	(52) Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Crush"	Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Liberties"	Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Dare"	Suits	"Harvey" (SF) (N)	(:05) Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Home"														
53	FOOD	(53) Guy's Grocery Games	"Cheesy Special"	Guy's Game	"Ggg vs. Iron Chefs"	Guy's Game	"Everything from Scratch"	Guy's Grocery Games	"Big Cheese" (N)	Guy's Game	"Big Bacon Battle 2"	Guy's Game	"Over-The-Top Food Fest"												
54	HGTV	(54) Property Bros.	"Family Above All Else"	Property Brothers	"Wishful Building"	Property Brothers	"Home With a View"	Property Bros.	"The Homesick Cure" (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	Property Brothers	"Uplift and Electrify"												
56	FX	(56) (5:30) Keeping Up With the Joneses	(16) Isla Fisher, Zach Galifianakis.	** Daddy's Home	(2015, Comedy) Mark Wahlberg, Linda Cardellini, Will Ferrell.					** Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates	(16) Anna Kendrick, Zac Efron.														
57	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon													
58	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle													
61	CNBC	(61) Deal or No Deal (N)		Deal or No Deal	"Father Knows Best"	Deal or No Deal	"Head Over Heels"	No Deal	"Cheering for a Lucky Strike"	Deal or No Deal		Paid Program	Paid Program												
63	BRAV	(63) Housewives NJ	"Heroina in Heels"	Wives NJ	"Hotheads and Hookahs"	Housewives NJ	"Reunion Part One" 1/3	Housewives NJ	"Reunion Part Two" 2/3	Mexican Dynasties		Watch What (N)	Housewives NJ 2/3												
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) The Human Comedy	(15) Skippy (1931) Robert Coogan, Mitzi Green, Jackie Cooper.			*** From Here to Eternity	(53) Montgomery Clift, Burt Lancaster.			(:15) A Farewell to Arms	Helen Hayes.														
65	SYFY	(65) Movie	*** San Andreas	(2015, Action) Carla Gugino, Alexandra Daddario, Dwayne Johnson.	Magicians	"A Timeline and a Place" (N)	Deadly Class	"Rise Above" (N)		Alien News (P) (N)	Futurama														
162	RFD	(162) Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	Road to The American		Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Product Showcase													

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