Ex-Trump lawyer Cohen to comply with Senate subpoena

By MICHAEL R. SISAK AND ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Senate committee has subpoenaed President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen, his attorney said Thursday, and Cohen intends to comply with the interview demand related to the Russia investigation.

The development comes one day after Cohen postponed his public testimony to a House committee.

Lanny Davis, a lawyer for Cohen, disclosed the subpoena from the Senate Intelligence Committee in a one-sentence statement, and later told The Associated Press in a text message that "we will comply and hope to agree upon reasonable terms, ground rules and a date."

Cohen is set to begin a three-year prison sentence in March.

The Senate committee did not immediately confirm the subpoena, but any interview with Cohen would almost certainly take place in private, in keeping with how the committee generally has conducts

Russia-related hearings. Cohen earlier this week delayed his Feb. 7 appearance before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on the advice of his legal team, citing ongoing cooperation in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation and threats against his family. Trump, along with his attorney, Rudy Giuliani, has publicly urged the Justice Department to investigate Cohen's father-in-law, insinuating that Cohen's relative was part of some unspecific criminal activity.



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez

Monsivais, File In this Sept. 19, 2017, file

photo, Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's personal attorney, steps out of a cab during his arrival on Capitol Hill in Washington.

'If he wants to criticize Cohen, he can," Davis said. "Obviously, picking on his family publicly is a way of silencing him or intimidating him. And certainly he has engendered great fear in his extended family, which is why we postponed it."

In an interview Thursday, Davis said the House should take an immediate vote on censuring Trump "as a step before an impeachment investigation," and he pushed for a criminal investigation of Giuliani involving allegations of obstruction, witness intimidation and witness tampering.

The decision to postpone the House interview pushed back the chance of a public airing on additional details of Cohen's relationship with Trump, including hush money payments that Cohen has admitted arranging for two women who say they had sex with the president. Trump has denied the allegation.

Senate rejects rival Dem, GOP plans for reopening government

By ANDREW TAYLOR and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A splintered Senate swatted down competing Democratic and Republican plans for ending the 34-day partial government shutdown on Thursday, leaving President Donald Trump and Congress with no obvious formula for halting the longest-ever closure of federal agencies and the mounting damage it is inflicting around the country.

The twin setbacks triggered a swirl of bipartisan activity, unseen for weeks, as senators from both sides floated a plan to temporarily resolve the vitriolic stalemate by reopening government for three weeks while bargainers hunt a deal. At the same time, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., dashed to the office of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to explore potential next steps.

"We're talking," Schumer told reporters, one of the most encouraging statements heard since the shutdown began Dec. 22.

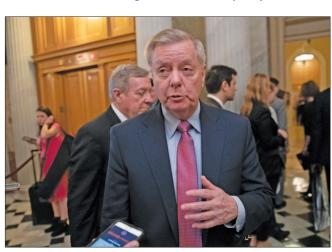
At the White House, Trump told reporters he'd support a "reasonable" compromise but suggested he'd want it to include a "prorated down payment for the wall," which he did not describe. He said he has "other alternatives" for getting wall funding, an apparent reference to his disputed claim that he could declare a national emergency and fund its construction using other programs in the federal budget.

It was initially unclear whether the flurry would produce results. House Pelosi. Nancy Speaker D-Calif., whose relationship



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., talks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington on Thursday, a day after officially postponing President Donald Trump's State of the Union address until the government is fully reopened.



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., heads to the Senate floor prior to a vote on ending the partial government shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday.

with Trump seems to have soured daily, told reporters a "big" down payment would not be "a reasonable agreement." Asked if she knew how much money Trump meant, Pelosi said, "I don't know if he knows what he's talking about."

Contributing to the pressure on lawmakers was the harsh reality confronting 800,000 federal workers, who on Friday face a second payday with no paychecks.

Underscoring the strains, Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., angrily said that Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, had forced a 2013 shutdown during which "people were killed" in Colorado from flooding and shuttered federal agencies couldn't help the state's emergency workers. Moments earlier, Cruz accused Democrats of blocking a separate, doomed bill to pay Coast Guard personnel during this shutdown to score political points, adding later, "Just because you hate somebody doesn't mean you should shut the government down."

In an embarrassment to

Trump that could weaken his position whenever negotiations get serious, the Democratic proposal got two more votes Thursday than the GOP plan, even though Republicans control the chamber 53-47. Six Republicans backed the Democratic plan including freshman Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, who's clashed periodically with the president.

For most of the day, both parties showed their sympathy for unpaid federal workers while yielding no ground in their fight over Trump's demand to build a border wall with Mexico.

The Senate first rejected a Republican plan reopening government through September and giving Trump the \$5.7 billion he's demanded for building segments of that wall, a project that he'd long promised Mexico would finance. The 50-47 vote for the measure fell 10 shy of the 60 votes needed to succeed.

Minutes later, senators voted 52-44 for a Democratic alternative that sought to open padlocked agencies through Feb. 8 with no wall money. That was eight votes short. It was aimed at giving bargainers time to seek an accord while getting paychecks to government workers who are either working wihout pay or being forced to stay home.

Flustered lawmakers said Thursday's votes could be a reality check that would prod the start of talks. Throughout, the two sides have issued mutually exclusive demands that have blocked negotiations from even starting: Trump has refused to reopen government until Congress gives him the wall money, and congressional Democrats have rejected bargaining until he reopens government.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING **JANUARY 25, 2019**

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