Fitton: The Deep State Is in Deep Cover-up Mode

Former FBI Director James Comey testified in front of the Senate Intelligence Committee, on his past relationship with President Donald Trump, and his role in the Russian interference investigation, in the Senate Hart building on Capitol Hill, on Thursday, June 8, 2017. (Photo by Cheriss May) (Photo by Cheriss May/NurPhoto via Getty Images)

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by TOM FITTON Washington D.C 288

The coup attempt against President Trump is rapidly collapsing, but the deep state is still in cover-up mode. In this article for The Hill, Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton discussed the FBI's continuing protection of former Director James Comey and Judicial Watch's efforts to penetrate the truth.

As the James Comey saga continues to unfold, the James Comey legend continues to unravel.

The more that is learned about Comey's involvement in the deep state's illicit targeting of President Trump, the more reason the American people must question both Comey's motives and his management as director of the FBI, the now-disgraced agency he headed before Trump fired him. Comey left a trail of suspicious activities in his wake.

Comey now looms large over a burgeoning constitutional crisis that could soon overshadow Watergate at its worst. To deepen the crisis even further, it now appears some of Comey's former FBI and Justice Department colleagues continue to protect him from accountability.

Three suspicious activities stand out, all intertwined: the so-called Comey Memos, Comey's controversial testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, and Comey's book deal.

After Comey was fired by President Trump on May 9, 2017, he arranged to give *The New York Times* a February 14, 2017, memorandum he wrote about a one-on-one conversation with Trump regarding former national security adviser Michael Flynn. *The New York Times* published a report about the memo on May 16, 2017. Special counsel Robert Mueller was appointed the following day.

On June 8, 2017, Comey testified under oath before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He stated he authored as many as nine such memos. Regarding the Flynn memo, Comey admitted: "I asked a friend of mine to share the content of the memo with a reporter [for *The New York Times*]. I didn't do it myself for a variety of reasons, but I asked him to because I thought that might prompt the appointment of a special counsel."

Comey also testified about being dismissed by Trump. Comey detailed multiple conversations with Trump, during which Comey confirmed he told Trump three times that he was not a target of investigation. Judicial Watch is pursuing numerous Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits relating to Comey's memoranda and FBI exit records, as well as a lawsuit for Justice Department communications about Comey's Senate testimony. The American people deserve to know what, if any, complicity his former colleagues had in drafting that testimony and/or in engineering the appointment of Mueller.

The day before Comey's testimony, Fox News reported: "A source close to James Comey tells Fox News the former FBI director's Senate testimony has been 'closely coordinated' with Robert Mueller." Comey may have violated the law in leaking his official FBI memos to the media, and it would be a scandal if Comey coordinated his Senate testimony with Mueller's special counsel office.

Judicial had to sue in federal court to uncover the truth. That speaks volumes. The FBI has a protective stone wall built around Comey. It refuses to release the Comey memos and refuses to disclose records of communications between the FBI and Comey prior to and regarding Comey's testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Since his forced departure from the FBI, Comey signed a book deal in August, set for publication in April, for which he reportedly received an advance of more than \$2 million. Given the fact that the FBI appears to be letting Comey get away with stealing and leaking official government documents and colluding with the special counsel to get Trump, even a trusting person must be suspicious about his book deal.

The FBI fanned those suspicions by adding a new layer to the protections around Comey. Again, Judicial Watch was forced to sue a recalcitrant FBI for records, including but not limited to forms Comey was required to complete relating to prepublication review of the book by the FBI. Did Comey's cronies give the fired FBI director a pass on this long-standing requirement? Is that why they are stonewalling the Judicial Watch FOIA request?

Based upon Comey's performance to date, this book likely will be an elaborate exercise in self-apotheosis. That's why the American public deserves to know if Comey's former colleagues – many of whom we now know aided in his exoneration of Hillary Clinton in the email scandal and are participants in the contrived investigation of Donald Trump — scrutinized his literary claims or simply green-lighted his every word.

There is no doubt that the deep state is in deep cover-up mode. The FBI, Justice Department and the special counsel all are stonewalling our requests for Comey documents. The more they stonewall, the deeper the suspicions grow about Comey's complicity in the attempt to use the bogus Trump dossier to prevent the election of Donald Trump, and then use it to undermine his presidency once he was elected to office.

In my experience in Washington, when people refuse to come clean, it is usually because they are hiding dirty laundry.

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