

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 27, 2018

The Honorable James N. Mattis
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request information about extremely troubling press reports suggesting that a banker named Stephen Calk may have made loans of up to \$16 million to President Donald Trump's campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, in exchange for alleged promises to name him Secretary of the Army.

According to numerous press accounts, the bank that Mr. Calk heads, Federal Savings Bank, provided up to \$16 million in loans to Mr. Manafort "as part of a quid pro quo arrangement to secure Mr. Calk a job in Mr. Trump's Administration."¹

According to these reports, between late 2016 and early 2017, "Mr. Calk was placing calls to the Pentagon and specifically to Army headquarters, asking for briefings to obtain information and prepare himself for a possible job." In addition, according to these reports, "Mr. Calk's overtures raised questions among military leaders as to how to respond."²

Although Mr. Calk ultimately was not given a position with the Department, reports that Mr. Calk was being considered for a high-level and highly sensitive national security position within the Trump Administration as part of a *quid pro quo* with Mr. Manafort raise serious concerns that, completely apart from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, warrant scrutiny by Congress.

¹ *Mueller Examines Manafort Loans*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 21, 2018) (online at www.wsj.com/articles/mueller-examines-manafort-loans-1519259125). See also *Mueller Asking if Manafort Promised Banker White House Job In Return For Loans*, NBC News (Feb. 21, 2018) (online at www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/mueller-asking-if-manafort-promised-banker-white-house-job-return-n849916); *Paul Manafort Got \$16 Million in Loans After the Election. Mueller Finds That Very Interesting*, Vox (Feb. 21, 2018) (online at www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/21/17036634/paul-manafort-sealed-charges); *Behind Manafort's Loans, a Chopper Pilot Who Flew Into Trump's Orbit*, Bloomberg (July 25, 2017) (online at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-25/behind-manafort-s-loans-chopper-pilot-who-flew-into-trump-orbit>).


² *Id.*

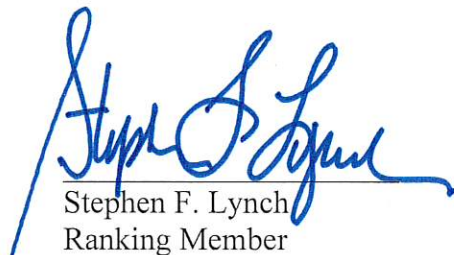
In order to investigate these issues, we request that the Department produce, by March 13, 2018, the following documents:

- (1) all documents referring or relating to Mr. Calk within the custody, control, or possession of the Department of Defense or any of its components, including but not limited to written or oral communications regarding a potential position within the Department or information requested by Mr. Calk;
- (2) all documents referring or relating to written or oral communications regarding Mr. Calk or personnel decisions at the Department between the Department or any of its components and Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, or any other individuals affiliated or connected with staff for President Trump's campaign;
- (3) all documents referring or relating to policies or guidance regarding alleged requests for assistance by Mr. Calk while seeking a position within the Department or requesting information from the Department; and
- (4) all documents referring or relating to any action considered or taken in response to Mr. Calk's alleged requests.

In addition, we request that the Department provide a briefing on these matters by March 13, 2018. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Timothy Lynch at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member


Stephen F. Lynch
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security