

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: TONI PORTER

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held via Webex,
commencing at 10:04 a.m.

Present: Representatives Titus, Keating, and Zeldin.

Appearances:

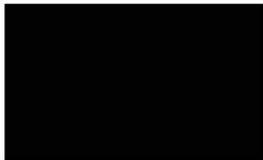
For the COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

[REDACTED]

For the COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM:

[REDACTED]

For the SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE:



For TONI PORTER:

RONALD J. TENPAS, VINSON & ELKINS

MISTY HOWELL, VINSON & ELKINS

CONRAD BOLSTON, VINSON & ELKINS

For the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE:



, OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

, OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

HFAC Dem Counsel. Let's go on the record, please.

Good morning. This is a transcribed interview of Toni Porter conducted by video conference in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. This interview is being conducted by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

The witness, through her counsel, has agreed that today's interview will cover Ms. Porter's activities and duties at the State Department, focusing primarily on work to support the Secretary and including her work related to Mrs. Pompeo.

In addition, it will cover any knowledge Ms. Porter has of inspector general inquiries relevant to the committee's investigation, primarily those related to arms sales and support for the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo, as well as the circumstances of Mr. Linick's termination and the subsequent installation of Ambassador Stephen J. Akard as acting inspector general.

Ma'am, to begin with, can you please state your full name and spell your last name for the record?

Ms. Porter. Toni Porter, P-o-r-t-e-r.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Ms. Porter, my name is [REDACTED], senior counsel for the Committee on Foreign Affairs, majority staff. I want to thank you for coming in today for

this interview, and we appreciate particularly that you are here speaking to us today voluntarily.

The stenographers already have a list of names and titles of all of today's participants, but I will now read for the record the names that are on that list.

For the HFAC majority staff: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED],
and [REDACTED]. HFAC minority staff [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]. Majority staff for the Committee on Oversight and Reform: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Minority staff for the Committee on Oversight and Reform: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Minority staff for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: [REDACTED]. And we'll ask counsel and the State Department representatives to identify themselves momentarily.

Among these participants are moderators from the majority staff of the committees who are managing the technical requirements of the Webex platform for this video conference and who admitted you into the video conference a few minutes ago. The moderators will respond as needed to specific cues from attendees who wish to speak, generally manage the muting and unmuting of microphones to ensure audio quality and an orderly process, although speakers do retain the ability to mute and unmute themselves if needed,

and they will also help troubleshoot any technological challenges that arise.

If anyone inadvertently drops from the video conference for any reason and you are unable to log back in via the meeting link that you originally received, please reach out to the relevant majority or minority staff contacts indicated in the original meeting link email that you received. The moderators can then endeavor to readmit you back into the conference as quickly as possible.

Before we begin, I'd just like to go over the ground rules for this interview.

To ensure that this video conference interview can be efficient and manageable, we will proceed in alternating timed blocks designated by party. The first timed blocks for each party will be 1 hour. Subsequent blocks will be 45 minutes.

Democratic counsel will begin with the first block of questioning, offering an opportunity for Democratic Members to ask questions toward the end of that hour should they wish to do so. The time will then shift to Republicans for an hour of the same format.

After the first 2 hours, 1 hour for each party, alternating 45-minute rounds will ensue until the questioning is done. If either side has not utilized its full allotted time in a given block, we will proceed to the

next timed block for the other party.

During the interview, we will do our best to limit the number of people who are directing questions at you and any crosstalk in general that can make it more difficult for the stenographers to achieve an accurate transcription.

That said, from time to time, follow-ups or clarifying questions may be useful, and if that's the case, you might hear from additional people around the table. If that is the case, we would ask that if anyone else does speak, please identify yourselves before going into the substance of what you would say just so that the stenographers are clear on who is speaking.

For everyone, including the stenographers, we would ask that, if you're not attempting to ask a question or raise another issue, that you please turn off your video monitor so that it's less distracting for the witness.

Because we are proceeding virtually, the moderators will also mute everyone other than the witness and the main questioner and then unmute your microphone if and when you indicate a request to speak, which will help with our audio quality. Requests to speak may be initiated through the hand-raising function on the Webex platform, and the chair or ranking member or their designee will recognize Members to ask questions through this hand-raising function toward the end of each question round.

Ma'am, I understand that you have counsel representing you today in your personal capacity. Is that correct?

Ms. Porter. That is correct.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Can I ask counsel for Ms. Porter to please identify themselves for the record?

Mr. Tenpas. Yes. My name -- this is counsel for Ms. Porter. My name is Ronald J. Tenpas. The last name is spelled T-e-n-p-a-s. I am a partner at the law firm of Vinson & Elkins in Washington, D.C.

I would note that we have arranged with the committee for two of my colleagues to listen. They will not be actively participating but they are logged in and listening. They are, respectively, Conrad Bolston, B-o-l-s-t-o-n, and Misty Howell, M-i-s-t-y, Howell, H-o-w-e-l-l.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you.

Ma'am, we also understand that there are a few people from the State Department here today. Could we please ask that those individuals please identify themselves for the record?

State Department Counsel. This is [REDACTED] from the Office of the Legal Adviser.

State Department Counsel. And this is [REDACTED] from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you.

Ms. Porter, do you understand that agency counsel

represents the State Department and not you personally?

Ms. Porter. Yes.

HFAC Dem Counsel. And you are choosing to have agency counsel in the room today. Is that correct?

Ms. Porter. That is correct, yes.

HFAC Dem Counsel. As discussed with the State Department, and in accordance with HFAC's standard procedure, agency counsel will be expected to abide by the following ground rules.

Agency counsel will generally not be expected to speak or answer questions or pose questions during the interview. If agency counsel believes that a question calls for an answer that can only be provided in a classified setting, he may note that for the record. We will then defer to you as to whether or not you can answer that question at a sufficiently high level of generality.

If, in a specific instance, agency counsel believes that it is necessary, he may note for the record that, quote, "The State Department believes that the question calls for an answer over which the White House may assert executive privilege," close quote.

Please note that even if such a statement is made by agency counsel, you have a First Amendment right to answer the question if you choose to do so, being mindful, of course, that classified information can only be disclosed in

an appropriate setting.

The White House has not indicated to the committee that the President intends to invoke or has invoked executive privilege, and there are no civil or criminal penalties associated with divulging information that the White House or the State Department may or may not believe is covered by executive privilege. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. Yes.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Again, there is a stenographer taking down everything I say and everything that you say to make a written record of this interview.

For the record to be clear, please wait until I finish each question before you begin your answer, and I will wait until you finish your response before asking you the next question. And the same goes for any other participants who may wish to ask you some follow-up questions.

The stenographers cannot record nonverbal answers, such as shaking your head, so it is important that you answer each question with an audible, verbal answer. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. I understand.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you.

We want you to answer our questions in the most complete and truthful manner possible, so we're going to take our time. If you have any questions or do not

understand any of the questions that you are asked, please let us know, and we'll be happy to clarify or rephrase our questions. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. I understand. Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. This interview will be conducted entirely at the unclassified level. It is the committee's expectation that neither the questions asked of you, the witness, nor answers by you or your counsel, would require discussion of any information that currently is or at any point could be properly classified under Executive Order 13526.

Moreover, EO 13526 states that, quote, "In no case shall information be classified, continue to be maintained as classified, or fail to be declassified," unquote, for the purpose of concealing any violations of law or preventing embarrassment of any person or entity. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. I understand.

HFAC Dem Counsel. If I ask you about conversations or events in the past and you are unable to recall the exact words or details, we ask that you please describe the substance of those conversations or events to the best of your recollection. If you recall only part of a conversation or an event, you should give us your best recollection of those events or parts of the conversation that you do recall. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. I understand.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Please note that if you wish to assert a privilege over any statement today, you should clearly state the specific privilege being asserted and the reason for the assertion at the time that the question is asked. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. I understand.

HFAC Dem Counsel. If you need to take a break, please let us know, and we'll be happy to accommodate you. However, to the extent that there is a pending question, we would just ask that you finish answering that question before we take a break. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. I understand.

HFAC Dem Counsel. And we will also offer an opportunity for a break in between every round as well.

During the course of the interview, we may occasionally show you documents related to this matter. If you need any additional time to review a document before answering a pending question, please just ask. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. I understand.

HFAC Dem Counsel. One final thing. Although you are here voluntarily, and we will not swear you in, you are required by law to answer questions from Congress truthfully. This also applies to questions posed by congressional staff in an interview. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. Yes. I understand.

HFAC Dem Counsel. If, at any time, you knowingly make false statements, you could be subject to criminal prosecution. Do you understand?

Ms. Porter. Yes.

HFAC Dem Counsel. And is there any reason that you are unable to provide truthful answers in today's interview?

Ms. Porter. There's no reason.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you.

Ma'am, do you have any opening remarks that you'd like to make before we begin?

Ms. Porter. I do not. Thanks.

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], this is Ron Tenpas. I would like to note we appreciate your comment about proceeding carefully and clearly.

I will just note that we have had some discussions about at least a targeted range for how long today is likely to go. We have tried to be accommodating to the committee and not insisting on a certain, you know, hard stop. But I do want to just point out that there were some discussions around that, and we are concerned to make sure that the total of the interview does proceed along the ranges we originally anticipated, which were, you know, roughly based on what you could say for the majority, which was in the range of 2 and a half to 3 hours?

HFAC Dem Counsel. Right. Our expectation it would be in the range of 2 and a half to 3 hours of questioning for the majority, depending, of course, on the answers. And then, you know, we wouldn't speak for our minority counterparts. But I can assure you that we expect to proceed as efficiently as possible, go through topics once, and then move forward. We're very grateful for your time and want to make sure that we're using it efficiently.

Ms. Porter. Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Our timekeeper will now turn on their video so that the time is visible. That video will show the remaining time in each question block. You can pin this to your screen by right clicking or hovering your cursor over the timer and then clicking the thumbtack icon. If you're on an iPad, it is, unfortunately, not possible to pin the timer, but it should remain visible on the bottom of your screen in grid view.

And with that, we will begin the timed rounds of questions.

EXAMINATION

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q So to begin with, ma'am, can you just tell us a little bit about your background as we get started?

A Of course. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Q Go ahead. Sorry.

A I'm from Wichita, Kansas. I have lived in the D.C. area for just over 3 years. I've been at the State Department since May of 2018, and prior to that, I was at the Central Intelligence Agency since August of 2017.

Q And what is your current title at the State Department?

A My current title is adviser to the Secretary.

Q And can you tell us a little bit about how you came to hold that job?

A Yes. At the time that the Secretary was asked to move from the CIA to the State Department he invited me to come along with him and to hold this job.

Q Had you ever worked for Mr. Pompeo before you worked for him at the Central Intelligence Agency?

A I did. I worked for him while he was in Congress. I was his district director.

Q Okay. And can you describe for us a little bit what your duties were in that job?

A As district director?

Q Yes, please.

A I oversaw -- we had a district office in Kansas. I oversaw that district office. And some of the things I did was the personnel within the office, the constituent services, the media outreach all reported up through me. And I -- whatever needed to be done in terms of I

represented him at events when he wasn't there. I staffed him at events when he was there. And I oversaw the operations of the office.

Q Okay. And so this was, given that you were located in a district office, this was a Kansas-specific focus for then Congressman Pompeo. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And what were the years that you held that position?

A From the time he was sworn in, in January of 2011, until -- until -- sorry -- until May of 2015.

Q Okay.

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], can I have just one sec?

HFAC Dem Counsel. Sure.

[Discussion off the record.]

Ms. Porter. If I could go back and clarify for a moment. When I was first hired, I was the director of constituent services, and roughly a year and a half into it, which would have been 20 -- I don't remember the exact time, 2012, 2013, I was promoted to district director. I just wanted to make that clear. Thank you.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Okay. And can you, since you clarified that, can you just sort of describe for us what changed in your responsibilities as a result of that promotion?

A Yes. As director of constituent services, my primary duties were assisting constituents with congressional -- I mean, with agencies, Federal agencies, as well as handling outreach.

Q Okay. And then in the subsequent job, what additional responsibilities came with that?

A I took over managing the office and was more specifically staffing the -- the Congressman -- sorry, he's had a number of titles -- staffing the Congressman whenever he was in the district.

Q Okay. And you said that job began in January of 2011. Is that correct?

A That is correct.

Q Had you known Mr. Pompeo prior to that job?

A I had, yes.

Q And how did you meet him?

A I met him through his spouse, Mrs. Pompeo.

Q And when was that?

A That would have been roughly in -- around -- early 2000s.

Q Okay. And when did you first meet Mrs. Pompeo?

A I met Mrs. Pompeo in the early 1990s.

Q And can you tell us a little bit about your relationship with her prior to going to work for then Congressman Pompeo?

A Yes. We were both community volunteers, so acquaintances during those years. And at one point in the early to mid-2000s we moved into the same neighborhood. So we were -- we weren't neighbors, but we belonged to the same neighborhood association and were neighbors, and so our paths crossed a little more there.

Q Okay. And did you see one another socially during that time?

A No.

Q Okay.

A Not to my recollection.

Q And so you met her through the neighborhood association, if I understand correctly?

A No. That's not my testimony. We actually met in the early 1990s when we were community volunteers.

Q My apologies. Sorry. I was jotting that down and also have terrible handwriting.

So ultimately she then introduces you to Mr. Pompeo, and you went to work for him in 2011.

Have you ever worked for Mrs. Pompeo before?

A I have not.

Q Have you ever had a job where she gave you directions even though you weren't formally working for her?

A No.

Q Has she ever tasked you in any job that you've had

with performing certain tasks, even though she may not have the title of being your boss?

A As a volunteer on the campaign, she -- I would have worked for both her and the Secretary -- the now Secretary.

Q Okay. And so you worked for Mrs. Pompeo during Mr. Pompeo's congressional campaign. Is that right?

A I volunteered.

Q Sorry. Whether or not you were paid. If we could just sort of stipulate that "worked for" would cover both of those, if that's okay, just to avoid confusion.

A Yes.

Q When you were a volunteer on the campaign, what sorts of things would Mrs. Pompeo have asked you to do?

A I was asked to be the director of events, and I helped and organized, along with her, a number of different events, including fundraisers.

Q Okay. So you collaborated with her in organizing fundraising events?

A Fundraising events and other types of events that weren't fundraising, yes.

Q Okay. And was that typically a situation where you would come up with the ideas, and she would just sign off, or were you more executing ideas that she proposed?

A The latter.

Q Okay. What was your last job before joining the

government?

A I worked for the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Q And can you tell us just --

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], just a clarification. I mean, when she was working for Congress, she was working for the government. Do you mean when she started the executive branch, or what period are you talking about here?

HFAC Dem Counsel. That's exactly correct, Mr. Tenpas, and I apologize for the confusion.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Your last job before joining the executive branch, before -- I believe that your first executive branch experience was for Mr. Pompeo at the CIA. Is that right?

A That's right.

Q Okay. My apologies for the confusion.

Could you just describe what the last job you held before you went to work for Mr. Pompeo at the CIA was?

A Yes. I was the government relations director for the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Q And can you tell us a little bit about what that job entailed?

A Of course. I oversaw events and advocacy for businesses in the Wichita region.

Q Advocacy to whom? Sorry. I'm just trying to make

sure I understand.

A To work -- advocacy for -- so that the business interests were represented at the State level.

Q Okay. So it was State-level advocacy on behalf of local and regional businesses in Kansas. Is that right?

A Yes, that's correct.

Q Okay. Now, as you mentioned, you then went to work for then Director Pompeo at the Central Intelligence Agency. When did you start that job?

A August of 2017.

Q And what was your title?

A Chief of Protocol.

Q Okay. And can you tell us a little bit about what that job entailed?

A I can tell you a little bit. I oversaw a team of nine protocol officers, and our -- the Protocol Office oversaw official visits for the then Director, Deputy Director. We also oversaw any events that were Director-level events, and then we handled the official gifting between the CIA Director, Deputy Director, and any foreign counterparts.

Q And did you work at all with Mrs. Pompeo in your role as the Chief of Protocol at CIA?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell us in what way you worked with her in

that role?

A I -- there were times that I -- that she had information or wanted us to -- she just had guidance on how she and the Director might like an event. And I mainly communicated with her so that she knew what the Director was doing in terms of special events and anything that might impact her schedule.

Q So when you say that she had information and guidance, can you just tell us a little bit more about what sort of information or guidance she would provide to you as you were planning events at CIA?

A Of course. For example, when we were -- I'll give you an example. And at some point I'm going to be uncomfortable moving forward because I don't have -- I'm not at liberty to talk about CIA information, so I hope you understand.

Q And certainly we would under no circumstances ask for anything that was classified or operational, and we don't expect to ask, really, any further questions about that period other than just to get a sense of the ways in which you interacted with Mrs. Pompeo in performing your role as Chief of Protocol. So this question and then maybe one more, if that's okay with you.

A Of course. Would you mind repeating the question?

Q Sure thing.

You mentioned that she would sometimes have information or guidance that she would provide to you as you were preparing events in your role as the Chief of Protocol. Can you just tell us what you meant by that?

A Of course. For example, when we were planning the holiday party for -- congressionals are invited to that, other members of the Cabinet. It's a large Director-level event. She was interested in what we were doing in terms of decorations, what we were doing in terms of food. She wasn't directing, but she was interested in it, and she might have had feedback.

Q Did she give you guidance on guest lists?

A She and the Secretary reviewed the guest list, and they may have had additional ideas of who they might -- of specific people that maybe weren't on the list before and they wanted to include this year.

Q And you said that she was interested in these things. Did she give you direction on actions that you should take in planning any of those events?

A I don't recall that she gave direction. It was more of a briefing. She and then Director, it was the first year that they had events there, and so it was more briefing them about what the event was and what it had looked like previously and how did we want to proceed this particular year.

Q And if she gave you suggestions on how she thought something in particular should be done, even if you didn't perceive it as a direction, is that usually something that, if she had suggested that you look into doing something, you would look into it?

A Yes. It was a Director's -- a Director-level event. So we certainly wanted it to reflect his taste and his style.

Q But that was -- his taste and his style were being relayed to you through Mrs. Pompeo, or was Mr. Pompeo also involved in those communications?

A Both.

Q Okay. Was it more frequent that you were just getting a sense of his taste and style from Mrs. Pompeo?

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], I think we're about at the limit of what we've agreed to.

HFAC Dem Counsel. That's fine.

Mr. Tenpas. We agreed to some general question of her duties. You're now into the minutiae of CIA planning activities. Their counsel is not here. I'd ask that you move on.

HFAC Dem Counsel. We're happy -- just for the record, I think we probably would disagree that it's minutiae on CIA activities. We're just trying to get a general sense of the engagement with Mrs. Pompeo.

But I take your point entirely. We appreciate the agreement prior to the interview, and we're happy to move on.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q So when Secretary Pompeo was confirmed as Secretary of State in April of 2018, you followed him over to the State Department. Is that right?

A Sometime after that, yes.

Q Okay. Why didn't you want to stay on as the Chief of Protocol at the CIA?

A It was a hard decision, but it seemed interesting to me to move on and work at the State Department.

Q And what did Mr. Pompeo tell you that the work at the State Department would involve that made it seem appealing to make the move?

A He told me that it would be in the Office of the Secretary, and that I would be continuing to work on events and projects that were important and of interest to him.

Q Was it your understanding that it would be similar to the work that you had done in the Office of Protocol?

A In pieces similar, but of course the State Department has an Office of the Chief of Protocol, and so I knew that it would not be in protocol.

Q Okay. And we'll get into that in detail a little bit later.

Did you have any conversations with Mrs. Pompeo about whether or not you should move from CIA over to the State Department?

A Not that I recall.

Q Did you have any conversations with Mr. Bulatao, who also moved from the CIA to the State Department, as to whether or not you should also come along and join State?

A Yes.

Q I'm sorry. I just didn't catch that?

A I'm sorry. Yes.

Q Okay. Can you describe those conversations, please?

A They were in passing, but it was -- we were the only two people that had been asked to move to the State Department, and we -- I don't remember, really, the specifics of the conversation other than we both knew that we wanted to ensure that we didn't leave the CIA shorthanded during an important time, but that we were both moving to the State Department.

Q Okay. So after Mr. Pompeo's tenure at the CIA when he decides or he is asked to serve as Secretary of State and is ultimately confirmed by the Senate, you and Mr. Bulatao were the only two people that were asked to go with him. Is that correct?

A That's my understanding.

Q Okay. And why was it just the two of you?

A I don't know.

Q You don't have any insight into whether or not your prior relationship might have been one of the reasons that they wanted you to go with him to State?

Mr. Tenpas. Well, excuse me. That was not your question. Your question was, why was it only the two of them who were asked to go, which involves her speculating on the Secretary's thinking and decisionmaking.

HFAC Dem Counsel. A fair point, sir. I apologize. Let me try again.

Actually, scratch that. We'll go ahead and move on.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Was Mr. Bulatao in favor of you also coming over to the State Department?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. And how long have you known him for?

A I first met -- my recollection of first meeting Mr. Bulatao would have been in January of 2017.

Q Okay. And can you just describe that meeting, please, how you first met him?

A Of course. It was -- a number of people were in D.C. for the inauguration of President Trump, and I met him. At the time, the Secretary was still a Congressman, and so I actually met him when we both happened to be visiting the congressional office at the same time.

Q So you were both visiting Mr. Pompeo's congressional office, just for clarity?

A Correct, that's my recollection.

Q Okay. Thank you.

So with all that as background, I'd like to briefly turn it over to my colleague, [REDACTED], from the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

A Thank you.

BY Oversight Dem Counsel:

Q Hi. Good morning, Ms. Porter. Thank you for being here.

A Good morning.

Q You can hear me all right?

A I can hear you, yes.

Q Great. I want to thank you for that background on your work prior to and coming to your current role in the State Department and jump ahead a little bit to recent events that our committees have been investigating around the firing of Inspector General Steve Linick.

So for starters, when did you first learn that Mr. Linick was going to be fired?

A I learned about it after he was fired.

Q And how did you learn about it?

A My first recollection of learning about it is when I heard about it on a media report, TV.

Q And do you recall when that was?

A My best recollection is that it was in late May of this year.

Q So Mr. Linick was -- it was announced that he was being terminated on May 15th. Does that help you recall when you first heard about it?

A Sometime after May 15th.

Q And did you discuss his firing with State Department officials?

A No.

Q So in your role or otherwise beside your official duties, you have not discussed the inspector general's firing with Secretary Pompeo, for example?

A No.

Q Or Under Secretary Bulatao?

A No.

Q And not with anyone else at the State Department?

A Could you repeat that?

Q Sorry. Not with anyone else at the Department?

A Prior to his firing?

Q Or since.

A Well, since, yes.

Q Okay. So since his firing, can you describe discussions you've had about the decision and the firing of Inspector General Linick?

A I've had no discussions about why he was fired. The only discussions I've had were that I received an invitation to be interviewed by the IG office.

Q Okay. And you said to be interviewed by the IG office, to confirm?

A Yes.

Q And can you describe any of the discussions you had around that?

A Could you be more specific?

Mr. Tenpas. You're asking about her -- what she was asked in the IG interview, or -- I think there's just a confusion about kind of --

Oversight Dem Counsel. Sure.

Mr. Tenpas. -- what you mean, any discussions about that.

Oversight Dem Counsel. Sure. I'll rephrase that. I think we'll turn later to more substance around any interviews you had with the Office of Inspector General, specifically discussions around Mr. Linick's firing and who was involved in the substance of those discussions.

Mr. Tenpas. Can I have just a moment?

Oversight Dem Counsel. Sure.

[Discussion off the record.]

Mr. Tenpas. Ms. Porter, I think, wants some clarification there.

Go ahead and try to answer.

Ms. Porter. Would you mind repeating that question, please?

BY Oversight Dem Counsel:

Q Sure. No problem.

So before or since Mr. Linick's firing, my question was about discussions you had regarding the firing of Mr. Linick and who was involved and the nature of those discussions.

A I don't recall having any discussions.

Q Okay. And had you ever seen any documentation or had any discussions or aware of discussions about Mr. Linick's performance as inspector general prior to his firing?

A Not to my recollection.

Q Do you ever recall Secretary Pompeo mentioning anything about his views of Mr. Linick's performance as inspector general?

A No, not to my recollection.

Q Or Under Secretary Bulatao?

A No, not to my recollection.

Q Were you aware of any meetings between Inspector General Linick and the Secretary prior to his firing?

A I am not aware.

Q Were you surprised by the inspector general's firing?

A Yes.

Q Why is that?

A I mean, I heard about it on TV, and I didn't know about it before that, so I -- when I saw it on TV, I was surprised.

Q And did you have any further reaction to the fact of the inspector general being fired?

A Not to my recollection.

Q Now, after Mr. Linick's firing until recently, Ambassador Stephen Akard was in the role as acting inspector general. So when did you learn that Mr. Akard -- or Ambassador Akard, excuse me -- would become acting IG?

A I believe it was when I read about it in the media or heard about it.

Q Do you recall when that was?

A I don't recall.

Q And prior to May 15th when Mr. Linick was fired and Ambassador Akard was named acting IG, had you heard of any discussion about Ambassador Akard becoming acting inspector general?

A No, not to my recollection.

Q Had the Secretary mentioned, or are you aware of the Secretary discussing Ambassador Akard, about, you know, his role prior to that as Director of Foreign Missions?

A Not -- I have no recollection of that, no.

Q Do you recall the Secretary meeting with Ambassador Akard prior to Inspector General Linick's firing?

A I don't recall.

Q What about Under Secretary Bulatao prior to Mr. Linick's firing?

A What about him?

Q Meeting with Ambassador Akard. Same question as the Secretary.

A I don't recall, no.

Q Okay. Do you know who had input into the decision to fire Mr. Linick as inspector general?

A No. I don't -- I don't recall. I don't know.

Q And do you know who had input into the decision to name Ambassador Akard as acting IG?

A No.

Q Okay. And have you had interactions with Ambassador Akard either before or since he became acting IG prior to his departure recently?

A No, I have no recollection of having interactions with him.

Q Now, as I mentioned, Ambassador Akard -- it was announced publicly he left the State Department about 2 weeks ago. Do you know anything about why he left?

A Only what the Secretary mentioned, which was that he was going back home to Indiana.

Q When did you hear that, the Secretary mention that?

A When he made a public -- I believe it was when he made a public statement somewhat recently, within the last week or so. I don't recall the exact date.

Q And had you heard the Secretary discuss Mr. Akard's departure other than that public statement?

A No.

Q Okay. When the committees interviewed Mr. Linick back in June, he mentioned multiple investigations involving the Office of the Secretary, multiple inspector general investigations, some of which my colleague mentioned at the start of the preamble to this interview. He mentioned the OIG investigation into the State Department's role in arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE and also allegations of misuse of Department resources by the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo.

So, first, did you ever discuss the arms sales investigation with Department leadership?

A No.

Q And do you know if anyone within leadership expressed dissatisfaction that the inspector general was looking into the arms sales matter?

A I have no information on that.

Q Okay. And I know my colleague will be coming back to these topics and the other investigation I mentioned

later, that one being the investigation into allegations of misuse of Department resources by the Secretary and his wife. Had you discussed the OIG investigation into that matter with the Secretary?

A Could you clarify what matter you're talking about?

Q The investigation into allegations of misuse of Department resources by the Secretary and his wife.

A No, I have not.

Q So to confirm for the record, you have not discussed that investigation with the Secretary?

A I have not.

Q Have you discussed that investigation with the Under Secretary, Brian Bulatao?

A No. Well, let me just say my recollection is my discussion with him was just about that I had been invited to go interview with the IG.

Q And when you say him there, that's Brian Bulatao?

A Correct.

Q Have you discussed that investigation or the request to interview you just mentioned, have you discussed that with Mrs. Pompeo?

A I have not, no.

Q Did you ever discuss any other State IG investigation with Department leadership?

A No.

Q So no discussion with the Secretary of any other State inspector general investigation?

A No, not to my recollection.

Q And had anyone else at the State Department -- we covered the Secretary earlier -- discussed any dissatisfaction with any State inspector general investigation during your time there?

A Not to my recollection.

Q Okay. Thank you. At this point, I'll turn back to my colleague, [REDACTED], on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

A Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thanks, [REDACTED].

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Ms. Porter, just a couple of follow-up questions on that.

You had mentioned that you had a conversation with Under Secretary Bulatao about the IG's investigation into allegations of misuse of resources. Who else did you talk to about that investigation, whether -- excluding conversations that you had with counsel, with your personal counsel?

A I had a brief conversation with Counselor Brechbuhl.

Q And can you describe that conversation for us, please?

A I had never received any note from an inspector

general before, and so I saw him in the hallway and just mentioned to him that I had received a request for an interview from the inspector general, and I just wanted to tell him about it.

Q And what did he say when you told him that?

A He said he -- I think he appreciated me telling him, and he said that it would probably be unpleasant, but that I would need to do it because it's required, but that there was -- there wasn't any specific timeline in which I would need to give the interview.

Q Okay. With respect to there not being a specific timeline, just so I have it, is that something he told you or something that you told him?

A It's something he suggested during our brief conversation.

Q Okay. And do you have a sense of why he would have known about what the timeline was for you speaking to the inspector general?

A I don't. I think that for him, he -- as I stated just a minute ago -- that he knew it would be unpleasant, and he -- I believe he thought that it was possible the investigation would resolve itself without my input.

Q Okay. And, roughly, when was that conversation with Counselor Brechbuhl?

A Roughly, it would have been -- let me think about

that for just a moment. I believe it would have been early to mid-June.

Q Early to mid-June of 2020?

A That's correct.

Q Okay. And how about your conversation with Under Secretary Bulatao? Do you recall roughly when that took place?

A Approximately the same timeframe.

Q Okay. So zooming back out, if we could --

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], could I have just one moment?

HFAC Dem Counsel. Sure thing.

[Discussion off the record.]

Ms. Porter. [REDACTED], I wanted to add one thing to my testimony. I think I didn't understand the question correctly.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Of course.

A But you asked who I had spoken with about the IG invitation to interview. There was a third person, and it was Marik String.

Q Okay. And when did you speak to Mr. String about the interview?

A My recollection is I would have spoken to him shortly after I had received the letter from -- or the note from the inspector general, which I think would have been in

very late May or early June, and I -- so it would have been in that timeframe.

Q Okay. And similarly to as you did with Counselor Brechbuhl, could you just describe that conversation with Mr. String, please?

A I will. It was a very short conversation. Again, I ran into him in the hall and told him about it, and he gave me two pieces of information. He said I had the right to ask what the investigation was about and that I also had the right to take a note taker me when I -- whenever I did do the interview.

Q Okay. Thank you.

And just going back for a second to the conversation that you had with Under Secretary Bulatao, just so we have that one as well, can you please just describe for us in a little more detail what that conversation was like?

A Of course. It was very similar to the conversation I had with the counselor. I, as a trusted colleague, I saw him and wanted him to be aware that I had received that. And he said very similarly that -- something to the effect that, yeah, that's -- you've never -- you've never done -- met with the IG before, it's probably going to be unpleasant, and there's no reason to hurry and get it on the calendar.

Q Okay. And then, just to be clear, whether at the

State Department or anywhere else, was there anybody else that you talked to about the fact that the IG requested to speak with you regarding his investigation into the allegations about misuse of resources by Mr. and Mrs. Pompeo?

A Those are the three people I recall having the discussion with. I'm sorry --

Mr. Tenpas. Well, to get a clarification, I think what she knew was and testified was she knew potentially after talking -- well, it hasn't come out yet -- but she knew after talking with the IG's office it was about misuse of government resources. I don't think her testimony has identified at all she knew what official or any official, as you put in that, so I'd appreciate if you address that and clarify it.

Ms. Porter. I apologize. I didn't hear the question correctly.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q And I apologize. I want to make sure we're very clear.

When the IG asked to speak to you or wrote you a note asking to speak to you, did they tell you what they wanted to speak to you about?

A No.

Q Okay. Can you tell me, please, what you recall

about what that note said?

A It was a very brief note, that they -- to the best of my knowledge, it said that they were -- there was an investigation that they were conducting and they thought I might have information to share and that they would like to schedule a time for an interview.

Q Okay. And when did the inspector general clarify for you what the topic was that they wished to speak to you about?

A Yes. So after I spoke with Marik, and he had told me that I had the right to find out what it was, I actually called -- and I don't remember the gentleman's name, I'm sorry -- but the person who had sent the email, who I think was the deputy IG, and I asked him, and he -- and that's when he told me.

Q And what did he tell you?

A He told me that it was about misuse of government resources by a member of the executive branch.

Q And did he give you any further clarity on which member of the executive branch that was?

A He did not.

Q Did there come a time when you came to understand that he was referring to Secretary Pompeo?

A I don't recall a specific time until the interview itself.

Q Okay. And when did that interview take place?

A It was roughly 2 weeks ago.

Q So if I have it correct -- I'm sorry. I spoke over you. Could you just say that again?

A I don't remember the exact date, but it was within the last couple of -- or around 2 weeks ago.

Q So you spoke to the IG around 2 weeks ago, and is it your testimony that that was the point at which you realized that one of the people that they wanted to ask you about was Secretary Pompeo?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Did there come a time when you came to understand that one of the people that the IG wanted to ask you about was Mrs. Pompeo?

A Yes.

Q And when did you come to understand that they wanted to talk to you about Mrs. Pompeo?

A Again, during the interview.

Q So about 2 weeks ago?

A Correct.

Q Okay. So going back to your conversation, first with Counselor Brechbuhl, do you recall talking to him at all about what the IG might wish to speak to you about?

A I don't have a recollection. I don't remember talking about that, no.

Q Did the topic of whether they might be interested in talking about the Secretary come up when you spoke to Counselor Brechbuhl?

A I don't recall the topic coming up. I -- no.

Q Okay. And how about Mrs. Pompeo? Did anyone mention Mrs. Pompeo when you spoke to Counselor Brechbuhl, either you or he?

A Not to my recollection.

Q All right. And, similarly, with your -- in your conversation with Under Secretary Bulatao, did anyone mention Secretary Pompeo? Either did you mention him, or did Secretary Bulatao mention him when you spoke to Under Secretary Bulatao about the IG request?

A I don't recall speaking specifically about that, no.

Q Do you recall if Mrs. Pompeo's name came up in that conversation with Under Secretary Bulatao?

A My recollection is it did not.

Q Okay. So your testimony is that ultimately you did speak to the inspector general about 2 weeks ago, and that it was at that time about 2 weeks ago that you came to understand that they wanted to talk to you about the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo. Is that correct?

A Yes, that is correct. The only thing I would add to that is that there had been multiple media reports that I had read that may have led me to believe that's what it

would be about.

Q Okay. Did you ever have any conversations with people as a result of those media reports as to what the IG might be looking at?

A I don't have a recollection. I just remember reading the media reports.

Q Okay. And you don't recall using that as a basis to go back and clarify, either with the Department or with the IG, what it was that the IG wanted to talk about? You didn't take those media reports and say: Hey, is this what you want to talk about?

A I did not, no.

Q Okay. So going back out, can you tell us, please, when did you first arrive at the State Department?

A My best recollection is it was the very end of May of 2018.

Q Okay. And your title, I think you had testified, was senior adviser. Is that right?

A No. What I testified is that it was adviser to the Secretary.

Q Okay. And is that still your title?

A It is, yes.

Q Thank you.

Do you have a written job description?

A Yes.

Q Do you -- can you characterize for us what it says?

A It a lengthy job description. I haven't seen it for some time.

Q What is your understanding of what your job description is? I won't ask you to, you know, speak to what may or may not be in the document, but just sitting here today, what is your understanding of your job description?

A My understanding of my job is that generally I take duties as assigned by the Secretary, and the duties revolve around managing projects of special interest to the Secretary. I also serve as a point of contact between the Secretary and other personnel within the Department and other duties as assigned.

Q I want to go carefully through that.

So to start with, I believe you said that you take assignment from the Secretary. Is that right?

A Yes.

Q Does anybody else assign you work beside Secretary Pompeo?

A The work that I get assigned is from the Secretary. There are times that Mrs. Pompeo relays that work to me.

Q And how does she do that?

A Often by email. Sometimes by phone, but often by email.

Q Okay. And does she have a state.gov email address,

or how does she communicate with you?

A No, she does not.

Q So does she have a private email address? I wouldn't ask you what it is.

A Yes.

Q And is that what she uses to communicate to you what the Secretary would like you to do?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Does anybody besides Secretary Pompeo or Mrs. Pompeo assign you work?

A No, not to my recollection.

Q Okay. I think you had said -- and forgive me if I -- I jotted this down, but I think you may have some of that written there -- you said one of the things that you work on are projects of special interest to the Secretary. Can you unpack that for us a little bit?

A Could you be specific in what you're --

Q I'm sorry. That was a little colloquial. When you say you work on projects of special interest to the Secretary, what are some examples?

A Understood. One example would be September 11th. At the agency, there was an event that commemorated September 11th, and I -- he liked having done that because it's such an important date in our country.

And so when we -- when I arrived at the State

Department in late May, one of the discussions we had was what, of these anniversaries or things that we might want to commemorate, and September 11th was one.

And so I started researching by asking people within the Department, and the result of that is we developed -- I collaborated with other people in the Department to develop an event that would -- that he -- where he could commemorate September 11th that would be special to the State Department.

Q Were there other examples of projects that are of special interest to the Secretary that you worked on?

A Yes. Another one would be Veterans Day. Again, having -- being a veteran himself and some of the other top personnel at the State Department being veterans and the fact that there are many veterans at the State Department, he wanted to learn what would be something we could do in order to recognize in a meaningful way Veterans Day.

Q Do you have other examples? We've got September 11th and Veterans Day so far.

A Other examples of special projects for the Secretary.

Another project that's important to him is meeting with -- in smaller groups with employees at the State Department. And one of the ways he did that was that -- we did that -- was setting up small townhalls with groups

connected with the State Department.

They were called Meet with Mike. And people could sign up to attend, and he would -- it would be an interaction where he could relate in smaller groups with the State Department.

[11:04 a.m.]

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Okay. Any other examples of special projects that you worked on for the Secretary?

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], I mean, at this point -- or, [REDACTED], I am sorry, at this point, are we going through a memory test of every project she's ever worked on? I mean --

HFAC Dem Counsel. No, sir.

Mr. Tenpas. -- if there are specific ones you want to know about, but this is getting --

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q So here's -- is there anything else that particularly comes to mind under that "special projects" heading?

A I was involved in organizing -- not organizing -- I was involved in developing a private dinner series for the Secretary.

Q Okay. And those would have been titled the "Madison Dinners." Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And we'll talk about that a little later. Aside from the Madison Dinners, which we'll come to, what percentage of your time do you think you spend on these special projects for the Secretary?

A There -- boy, it's hard -- it depends on the time. There are projects or other duties that are related to projects. I can't tell you a specific percentage.

Q Is it the bulk of your time is spent on planning special events, again, putting the Madison Dinners aside?

A It just depends on the time. If it's during a time that we're planning an event, then a significant amount of time would be spent on that, yes.

Q And, you now, some of these were sort of related to dates on the calendar. Is it fair to say that, you know, if you're planning an event that relates to a holiday or an anniversary, there would be sort of an increase in attention around that date?

Let's just make that the first question. You know, if it's a date-specific event, is it fair to say you would spend more time right around that date?

A Yes. To my recollection, that seems right.

Q And at times when you don't have a date-specific event that you are planning for the Secretary, how do you spend your workday?

A Oh, there's lots of different things that I do.

One of the things is, when he has guests that come to the State Department that are for meetings and that sort of thing, and if they're not foreign counterparts, I might be involved in ensuring the guests know how to get to the State

Department, get into State Department, go up to the Secretary's Office or wherever he is meeting with them, and then reverse it until they are successfully outside of the State Department. There's a lot of planning that goes into that.

Q And I just want to make sure I got your testimony on that. You said that you would sort of help do that logistical planning for individuals who were or were not foreign counterparts?

A The foreign-counterpart guests are handled by the Office of the Chief of Protocol. So they would be the non-foreign-counterpart guests.

Q Okay. So can you just give us some examples of some of those non-foreign-counterpart guests that you would help arrange logistics for? What sorts of folks are we talking about?

State Department Counsel. This is [REDACTED]. The way you just phrased it, [REDACTED], "what sorts," I'm not uncomfortable with, but the actual identity of non-foreign officials and their entry into the building is sensitive. So if Toni can describe generic types, I'm fine with that, but actual names, I'm going to object.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Well, let's just take it question by question.

State Department Counsel. Yeah.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q You said you are not involved in arranging logistics for foreign counterparts because that is handled by the Office of Protocol. What types of folks do you arrange the logistics for in terms of their visits? At a broad level.

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], give me just 1 second. This is Mr. Tenpas.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Of course.

[Discussion off the record.]

Mr. Tenpas. Thank you.

Ms. Porter, go ahead.

Ms. Porter. Okay.

Would you mind repeating that question?

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q I don't mind. You had said that you helped to arrange logistics for folks who were coming to meet with the Secretary, if I understood your testimony correctly, and you said that that is not something you do for foreign counterparts because that is handled by the Office of Protocol. So for what types of categories of people do you handle those logistics to help arrange meetings with the Secretary?

A Some examples would be, when he is meeting with other members of the Cabinet, perhaps when he is meeting with Members of Congress, folks from the private sector.

Those are some of the categories that come to mind.

Q Okay.

And just so that we can get through some of the baseline stuff in this hour, I'm just going to tick through a couple of, sort of, faster questions.

You had mentioned -- actually, sorry, to go back, there was -- you do have a document in front of you, I think, that you were reading when I asked you to characterize your responsibilities. And there was something you said at the end that I didn't catch, which was "connections with other personnel" or something like that. Could you just repeat what that last item is?

A Yeah --

Mr. Tenpas. , just for clarification, the only document she has in front of her is a notepad so she can make notes to herself.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay.

Mr. Tenpas. There is no official document of the State Department, no written job description, anything at all like that. So I don't know what the editorial comment was intended at, but I'll let her answer the question you've asked.

HFAC Dem Counsel. And I appreciate that. It wasn't intended to be editorial. It's a little bit difficult to see here, and I just wanted to make sure. It looked like

you were checking notes on something. I just wanted to make sure I had your words appropriately, rather than asking people to read back something from 5 minutes ago.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q So what was that last item? I just want to check.

A That I serve as a point of contact between the Secretary and the Secretary's Office and other personnel within the Department.

Q And could you just give us an example of, you know, what that means? What sorts of personnel and for which issues are you the point of contact?

A Many of those points of contacts are developed, again, when I am working on special projects.

Q Uh-huh.

A And so I could give you examples of who I -- is that what you're wanting?

Q That would be helpful, yeah.

A Okay. For example, I would interact from time to time with the director of the -- it used to be the United States Diplomacy Center. The name has changed now to the National Museum for American Diplomacy. So we often have -- or sometimes, I should say, have events there, and so I would interact with the director.

I also interact regularly with the director of the diplomatic reception rooms for events and tours, get

information about the diplomatic reception rooms.

I interact certainly with people on the Secretary's team, people with the Executive Secretariat, people at the Foreign Service Institute. Those are some examples.

Q And when you say individuals on the Secretary's team, can you just tell us who that is typically?

A Of course. I would interact with his scheduler, his special assistants, his executive assistant. And Lisa Kenna, while she is not part of the Secretary's staff, I do interact with her regularly.

Q Okay. And what's the nature of the interactions with Ms. Kenna?

A Many times it has to do with the Secretary's schedule.

Q Can you just tell me a little bit more about that?

A Of course. She often has input directly from the Secretary, maybe changes that he's making, new things that he wants to do. And then we have a huddle that involves Ms. Kenna, the scheduler, or the scheduling team, I should say, and usually somebody from -- one of his special assistants, where if it's a daily huddle, if we can make it happen, that's what we like to do so that we're all on the same page.

Q Okay. And so for things to do with making sure you're coordinating with the Secretary's official schedule,

do I have it right that Ms. Kenna is your normal point of contact on that?

A She's one of them. That team would be the point of contact.

Q Okay. But for issues related to some of the events that you're planning and the Secretary's preferences for those events, I believe you testified that your point of contact for getting that information is usually Mrs. Pompeo. Is that right?

A I did not testify to that, no.

Q I think you had said that, typically, when you were getting information about what his preferences for a particular event would be, that that was primarily relayed through Mrs. Pompeo.

Mr. Tenpas. Okay. Again --

HFAC Dem Counsel. I'm just trying to get a sense of --

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], then you can ask her the question. But you have misstated her testimony by inserting words like "she was her primary contact." Those are not words she has used. If you want to ask the straightforward question of her role or something like that, that's fine. But you are --

HFAC Dem Counsel. No mischaracterization was intended, and I apologize for that.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Can you help distinguish for me the types of things where you would coordinate with Ms. Kenna versus where you would coordinate with Mrs. Pompeo?

A Yes. So, with Ms. Kenna, we're talking about the Secretary's schedule. Often his schedule overlaps, conflicts, includes the schedule of Mrs. Pompeo.

Q Okay. And so when would you talk to which person?

A Well, it would depend on what information I was seeking.

Q Would you only talk to Mrs. Pompeo when it came to making sure you were deconflicting with his personal schedule and you spoke to Ms. Kenna about his official schedule? I'm trying to get an understanding of how those relate to each other.

A Yes, I believe that's a fair statement.

Q Okay.

Just a couple of quick things. We've got 3 minutes left in the block.

Who keeps your time?

A The Office of the Secretary.

Q Okay. And which individual -- who is your timekeeper? Which individual do you have to report to when you're taking leave and things like that?

A The person who is in charge of the Secretary's Office is his office management specialist, who would be the

office manager for the Secretary.

Q Okay.

What's your GS level?

A 15.

Q Okay.

And do you have any other jobs other than your work for the State Department?

Mr. Tenpas. Excuse me. [REDACTED], do you mean other employment, like --

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yes, some other employment.

Ms. Porter. No, I do not.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Okay.

Are you paid at all directly by either Secretary Pompeo or Mrs. Pompeo as distinct from paid by the U.S. Government?

A No.

Q Do you get written performance evaluations?

A I have not.

Q You've never gotten a written performance evaluation?

A I mean, ever? Or --

Q At the State Department. Sorry. At the State Department, have you ever received a written performance evaluation?

A I don't recall having received one.

Q Okay.

When you came onboard at the State Department, did you get a briefing on the Federal Records Act?

A Yes, I did.

Q Did you meet with State Department ethics officials at the time that you came on at the State Department?

A I don't specifically recall, but I had many briefings at the beginning when I came on that -- I may have had one and I just don't recall.

Q Okay.

Do you ever recall providing to ethics officials some form of a description, whether it's documentary or verbal, as to what your job responsibilities were?

A No, I don't recall.

Q Has your position description ever been changed or updated?

A No, not to my knowledge.

Q Just a couple of other folks, just to make sure we've got it, in terms of folks who would assign you work. Has Brian Bulatao ever assigned you work?

A I don't recall him assigning me work. He is one of the folks that I work -- that I interact with at the Department.

Q Okay.

And just to make sure that I have it, I believe you've

said so far, folks that assign you include Secretary Pompeo and Mrs. Pompeo. Does Ulrich Brechbuhl assign you work? Has he ever assigned you work?

A I don't recall him assigning me work, no.

Q Okay. Has Ruth Fisher ever assigned you work?

A No.

Q And how about Lisa Kenna? Has she ever assigned you work in any way?

A Not to my knowledge, no.

Q Great.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you. This was very helpful.

We'll stop there. I'm happy to turn the round over to our Republican colleagues.

Before we begin that, ma'am, would you like a short break?

Ms. Porter. Yes.

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], can I have a chance to consult just briefly before we make the transition?

HFAC Dem Counsel. Absolutely. Yes.

[Discussion off the record.]

Mr. Tenpas. Thank you, [REDACTED]. We're back.

I think there are two points that, before we move on, probably bear some clarification. And so Ms. Porter wanted to address each of those.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Absolutely.

Please go ahead.

Ms. Porter. Okay. Thank you.

I believe you may have mentioned and I missed it that you had asked if I ever briefed ethics on the work that I do. And if I have a question or would like guidance, I definitely do reach out to the ethics attorney and he gets back with me.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Could you just give us a sense of how frequently that happens?

Ms. Porter. It doesn't happen a lot. It's -- but if I do have a question, he is available and I'm aware that he is available and willing to help.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay.

And you said you had a second point of clarification?

Ms. Porter. The second point of clarification, when you were restating, I believe, my testimony about Mrs. Pompeo, while I do consult with her and there are times that I take directions from her, I don't take assignments. That would have been a mischaracterization, I think.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Can you distinguish, then, if you say you take directions from her but not assignments, just in your own words?

Ms. Porter. So I view that directions would be more a stylistic opportunity to make sure that whatever it is that I'm working on, that stylistically it's how the Secretary

would like or has asked to have something done. And sometimes that information is provided by Mrs. Pompeo.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay. And I'm sorry, I just don't have the event-planning expertise that you do. Can you help me just a little bit with what you mean by "stylistically"?

Ms. Porter. Of course. It might be, if an invitation is being sent out, it might be, is the font readable? Sometimes you get these invitations and the font's not readable. That would be an example.

The Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo might have an idea of, at, let's say, the Fourth of July event that is for the foreign diplomats, they might have an idea of, oh, let's play this game, this is something that -- this is something that we have an interest in and maybe a history of.

So those types of things.

HFAC Dem Counsel. And just to be clear, when you say "play this game," like, entertainment at the event?

Ms. Porter. Yes. Yes.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay.

Ms. Porter. Entertainment that everybody who's there has the option to do. So just part of the event activity.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Great.

Was there anything else that you wanted to clarify before we change?

Ms. Porter. No. I believe that's it.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you for that.

Would you like a short break before we turn it over to our Republican colleagues?

Ms. Porter. I would, if that would be all right.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Is 5 minutes okay? Do you need longer?

Ms. Porter. Yes, 5 minutes is fine.

Mr. Tenpas. Five minutes would be perfect. Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you.

Let's go off the record, please, 5 minutes. Thank you.

[Recess.]

Mr. Tenpas. I don't know if we're all back. We're ready to go here. We'll defer to whenever, [REDACTED], you and others are ready.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yeah, I think we're ready whenever our Republican colleagues are ready.

Mr. Tenpas. Okay.

HFAC Republican Counsel. We're ready to go.

Ms. Porter, can you hear me okay?

Ms. Porter. I can, yes.

HFAC Republican Counsel. I do not have any questions for you, so I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], from the Oversight Committee to see if he has any questions.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Hi, Ms. Porter. Can you see me? Can you hear me?

Ms. Porter. I can now. Yes.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Okay. Great. Oh, there you are.

Mr. Tenpas. Is there any way to do anything with the window behind you? We're picking up a fair amount of glare off of that.

Oversight Republican Counsel. You know, Ron, this is the fourth or fifth one of these I've done. You are the first person to mention that. I have noticed it, but you're the first to mention. Unfortunately, I am in the minority,

so our office space is what it is. We're not in control.

Is that better?

Mr. Tenpas. That is actually better. It's fine. I know we're all making this up as we go.

That's perfect there, actually. That's much better for viewing.

Ms. Porter. Yes.

Mr. Tenpas. We appreciate it.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Well, it's great for you. Unfortunately, it's in the way of my computer mouse, so it's not great for me. But I'll make do and see what I can do here.

So thank you, Ms. Porter, for coming in. Thanks for coming in voluntarily. My name is [REDACTED]. I work for the Republican staff on the House Oversight Committee.

I just wanted to point out -- it wasn't discussed during the first hour -- that there's not a single Democratic Member of Congress here participating in this interview. For something that the chairman claims publicly is so important to him, at least through his written correspondence, it's a bit curious that he's not even -- he doesn't even give the courtesy of saying hello, somebody who issued you a subpoena.

Actually, I think he issued you multiple subpoenas. He issued you a subpoena, and then he didn't get it right, so

then he had to go back and correct the subpoena a second time. And for somebody who did that, who has been, you know, dragging your name through the mud, to not even give the courtesy of showing up and saying thank you for coming in, you know, I'm sorry about that. I'm sorry you've had to deal with that. That's very unfair.

You know, you want to talk about the misuse of government resources? I mean, you're participating in that right now, just by sitting for this interview. I mean, this is a gross misuse of government resources. I mean, we're wasting your time, we're wasting your lawyers' time, we're wasting my time, wasting the time of the State Department, wasting taxpayer money, basically, you know, on a crusade to abuse this committee's power and turn it into a tool of retribution.

And that's what's going on here. You know, your boss for some reason is disliked, and the committees are going to do everything in their power to try and bring him down. And that's what is going on here. And I'm sorry that you've been subject to this. I'm sorry that you're a party for it. And I think that's very unfair to everybody involved.

My colleague on the Oversight Committee spent 8-1/2 -- I timed him -- 8-1/2 minutes during the last hour asking you -- doing a very thorough job of asking you about Steve Linick and about his firing. That's the stated reason

why we're here. That was stated at the outset. That has been part of every written correspondence between the committees and the Department. We're here to investigate the firing surrounding Steve Linick.

And my colleague on the Oversight Committee, you know, took that to heart and spent a great deal of time asking about that. And, you know, he explored every which way possible to try and find out whether or not you knew anything about it. And, you know, despite his thorough questioning, the answer is, no, you don't. You don't. I'd be surprised if you'd even heard of Steve Linick before he was fired.

I mean, just looking over notes -- and I'm not going to mischaracterize what you testified, because that's grossly unfair to you. I don't mischaracterize. I certainly try not to mischaracterize, let alone do it intentionally. So that's very unfair to you.

But I wrote down in my notes that you had no discussions with the Secretary, no discussions with the Under Secretary, no discussions about why he was fired. The only discussions you had about the IG, period, were a couple passing conversations you had in the hallway about the fact that you had received an invitation to be interviewed by the IG's Office.

The narrative that the Democrats have picked up and

their promoting through whatever, you know, third-rate media outlet will pick it up or whatever blog that nobody reads is this: Secretary Pompeo found out about an investigation into him and his wife, asked the President to remove the inspector general, the President complied, and now there's somebody else in there as a result.

Unfortunately, there is -- you know, this is the fourth or fifth one of these we've done -- not a single, single piece of evidence that supports any of that. The Secretary was pretty stern about his reasons for recommending to the President that Inspector General Linick be fired. The Under Secretary also came out and stated the reasons why Mr. Linick was fired.

Both the Secretary and Under Secretary have made multiple offers for Mr. Bulatao to come in and testify before the committee. The committee has not taken him up on any of those. I don't think they're interested in the facts; I think they're interested in their narrative. They're interested in upending your life. They're interested in upending the life of Lisa Kenna. If Mr. Bulatao comes in, you know, neither of those things happen.

They're picking on women, is what has happened here. The last two interviews we've had, with you and Ms. Kenna, you're both women. Mr. Bulatao is a man. He's offered to come in. They've said no. I don't know how else to look at

it, other than they're trying to bully women into promoting their narrative. And that's disgusting. That's disgusting.

You know, even if the Democrats -- let's play hypothetical for a minute and say the Democrats' narrative is correct, Mr. Pompeo did find out about this investigation and got Mr. Linick fired as a result. Well, that wasn't a very good move, because you've testified --

Oversight Dem Counsel. Excuse me, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. You've impugned our motives just now, and you've been speaking for close to 10 minutes without asking a question. You mentioned using government resources effectively and not misusing time. So I'd appreciate you follow your own advice here and not engage in these unnecessary attacks and wasting our time with this diatribe here.

Thank you.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Thanks, [REDACTED]. I appreciate that. I was very complimentary of your questioning. I haven't gotten around to my questions yet. I didn't give an opening statement. The majority gave an opening statement, didn't give us a chance to make an opening statement. So we're on the clock, and I'm going to use my clock to continue to talk about what's going on here, and then I'm going to have some questioning of Ms. Porter.

So, you know, back to what I was saying, you know,

let's pretend for a second that the Democratic narrative is correct. Well, it hasn't worked, because you have gone in to talk to the IG. And not only have you gone and talked to the IG, but I believe you testified you received an invitation to talk to the IG in June, which was after Mr. Linick was removed.

So there's just no truth to this narrative whatsoever.

EXAMINATION

BY Oversight Republican Counsel:

Q Can you describe, Ms. Porter, where you were, what you were doing when you received the first subpoena from Chairman Engel?

A I was at the State Department, and I received it just as I was leaving my IG interview.

Q Just as you were leaving your IG interview?

A That's when I saw it. It came in during the interview.

Q So not only have you been dealing with preparing for the IG interview, which I would imagine was rather stressful, you had to come up for that and then all of a sudden you have to prepare for another interview with Congress right on top of that, back to back. Is that right?

A Yes, that's my recollection.

Q Pretty frustrating, to go from one to another?

A Am I frustrated?

Q Is it frustrating to go from, you know, one to the other? You're cooperating with one inquiry, and then all of a sudden you have this other bogus inquiry you have to cooperate with.

A Yes. It takes a lot of time.

Q Takes a lot of time. Yeah.

Oversight Republican Counsel. I'll leave it at that for now, and we'll come back and we may explore some more things during the next round.

So thank you for your time, and thank you for answering the questions.

Ms. Porter. Thank you.

HFAC Republican Counsel. So, [REDACTED], we will yield back the balance of our time.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you.

Just a couple of things that I'd like to clarify.

When members and staff were informed of this interview, they were informed that it would be a primarily staff-led interview. That's been the case for all of these.

We'd note for the record that --

Mr. Tenpas. Excuse me. This is Mr. Tenpas. Can I ask a question? I see the clock running at 50?

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yeah. Sorry. Thank you for that.

Could we reset that?

Thank you, Ron. I appreciate that. And we'll put that

at 45 for the next set of rounds.

Sorry. Could we just go off the record for 1 second?

[Discussion off the record.]

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay. Back on the record.

Ma'am, just to clarify a few things that [REDACTED] had said, members and staff were informed when they were invited to this interview, just so there's no misunderstanding, that this would be primarily a staff-led interview, as they've all been.

We would note for the record that, of the three committees participating, there is currently one Republican Member of Congress who is present here.

Mr. Tenpas, we clarified at the outset of the interview what the agreed-upon scope would be for this voluntary interview. I'm not going to read it all back unless you think appropriate, but did we properly state what the agreed scope of the interview was, as negotiated with you?

Mr. Tenpas. Yes. This is Mr. Tenpas. I can confirm that you correctly recited written agreed scope of interview that had been agreed between yourself and myself on behalf of Ms. Porter.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you.

And, Ms. Porter, we appreciate the spirit in which you and your counsel have engaged with us. We're just trying to get facts, and not interested in anything other than that.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q The one other thing that I would note is that the first request for you to come in for a voluntary interview was transmitted on May 27. Do you recall receiving that?

A Yes, that's my recollection.

Q Okay. Thank you for that.

So, since our colleagues have nothing further, we'd like to just move on to the next topic.

Media reports have stated and I believe that you mentioned in your testimony in the prior hour that you have been involved in planning the Madison Dinners at the State Department. Can you talk to us, please, about what those are and what your involvement in the planning was?

A Yes, I'd be happy to.

The Madison Dinner Series is a series of what one might consider roundtable dinners hosted by the Secretary for guests and then the guests' guests, so maybe a spouse or a guest. And the purpose of them is to promote the State Department both -- I'm sorry, I'm trying to think of what my word is here -- to expand the understanding of State Department work.

Q And so how does the idea for a particular Madison Dinner, when to host it, who to invite, how does that process usually work, if it's possible to characterize as a general matter how you normally go about planning these

events, where the idea comes from and then what happens afterwards?

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], can you hold on just 1 sec?

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yeah, sure.

[Discussion off the record.]

Mr. Tenpas. Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay.

Ms. Porter. I believe your last question was how each dinner comes about. Is that correct?

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q To the extent that you can characterize generally, yes, it is.

A Of course.

How it comes about is that they're identified -- a particular date is identified on the Secretary's calendar. That date is then shared with the Office of the Chief of Protocol to ensure that there are no conflicts within the Department.

And then, from that -- once the date is determined, depending on how far in advance that date is set, then the Chief of Protocol begins issuing invitations based on a potential guest list provided by the Secretary.

Q Okay.

So when you say that a date is identified on the calendar, you start with, essentially, when is the Secretary

available? Do I have that right?

A Correct.

Q Okay. And who typically identifies the date on the calendar that it would be good to have a Madison Dinner?

A Typically, that -- he would see his schedule, and, typically, I believe that he and Mrs. Pompeo look at both of their calendars to ensure that they're both available. And then that's when that date or dates are sent forth to deconflict within the building, if there is a reason to do so.

Q Okay. And so, at that point, am I correct that there's not usually a -- it doesn't start from, here's who we'd like to have for dinner, let's see when they're around? It starts from, here's when the Secretary's around, let's see how we can plan a dinner around that?

A Yes. That's my understanding.

Q Okay.

Once a date is identified, what is the process for determining who should be invited to one of these dinners?

A A potential guest list has been developed. And then that list is shared with the Office of the Chief of Protocol, who begins issuing invitations.

Q And when you say it's shared with the Chief of Protocol, shared by whom?

A The Office of the Chief of Protocol. It can either

be shared through myself. It might be shared through the Secretary to the Chief of Protocol. It might be shared from Mrs. Pompeo.

Q Okay.

And so when those guest lists -- when a date's identified and then a guest list is suggested by the Pompeos, is it usually built around, here's a particular foreign dignitary that we'd like to have a reception for? Or how do those guest lists usually look once there's a date identified?

A The guest lists are comprised of a number of thought/opinion leaders from different groups. There's, of course, always a foreign dignitary or ambassador from another country in attendance. But, beyond that, the guest lists are built around -- there might be members of the executive branch, Members of the Congress. Often, there's someone from the media, someone from the private sector. Generally, it's a guest list that is broad in those categories.

Q Is there always a foreign dignitary or a foreign interlocutor on the initial guest list that is invited by the Pompeos?

A Yes, although the -- often the Office of the Chief of Protocol determines, or makes suggestions, I should say, on who the foreign interlocutor or foreign leader is.

Sometimes it might be because someone -- a foreign leader is in town for another event, and they would know about that because of their work with the White House.

Q Okay. And so is it, then -- if I understand it, there's usually one, maybe two foreign dignitaries or interlocutors at each of these dinners, is our understanding from media reports. Is that correct?

A Yes, that's my recollection.

Q Okay.

And so when the Pompeos provide this guest list, is the bulk of the list comprised of the, sort of, U.S. domestic thought leaders that you had described?

A Outside of the foreign interlocutors we've just talked about, yes.

Q Right. And I think you mentioned that sometimes when that initial list goes to the Office of Protocol, the Office of Protocol may actually tweak who the foreign interlocutor may be, just based on their unique knowledge of a scheduling and other foreign policy considerations. Is that right?

A I don't know.

Q Okay.

Has there ever been a time where you recall that a guest list was proposed and the foreign counterpart changed but that the U.S. domestic counterparts remained the same,

that they just sort of swapped out, oh, this particular dignitary is not in town, let's do the dinner anyway with these people but a different foreign interlocutor? Has that ever happened?

A I don't recall a time that that's happened, but it's possible.

Q Okay.

What is the process within the State Department, once a foreign interlocutor is identified as someone who will be a guest at one of these Madison Dinners, for making sure that Department experts and those with equities in a particular country are aware that that person would be coming to a dinner with the Secretary?

A I don't know.

Q You don't know exactly how the process works or you don't know if there's a process, just to make sure I have your testimony correct?

A I don't know if there is a process, and if there is, I'm not involved in the process.

Q Okay. So you've never been involved in, say, you've got a dinner planned at which, say, the U.K. Ambassador to the United States is going to be there, you would not typically be involved in reaching out to the U.K. desk, making sure that they're aware that the Ambassador would meet with the Secretary at this dinner, right?

A That's correct.

Q Okay. And do you know whether or not such a process takes place for the Madison Dinners even if you're not involved in it?

A I'm not aware.

Q Okay.

And are you aware of whether or not there are any memos or papers that are typically provided by State Department officials to the Secretary in advance of these Madison Dinners?

A I'm aware that the bios of each of the attendees is provided to the Secretary, in addition to face books with name pronunciations if there are tricky names on them, and then also the order of events for the evening and a seating chart.

Q Okay.

You had said that the guest lists are initially -- or, sorry, that the next step after they're generated by the Pompeos is they're either passed directly by them or through you to the Office of Protocol. Did I get that right?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And who within the Office of Protocol usually works on the Madison Dinners?

A The primary point of contact, my understanding, is Mrs. Cathy Fenton.

Q Okay. And what is Mrs. Fenton's job title?

A I believe the job title is assistant -- she's in charge of ceremonials at the State Department and Deputy Chief of Protocol in charge of ceremonials. That's close. It may not be her exact title.

Q Okay. And we won't hold you to it.

Are there others within the Protocol Office that work on these dinners as well?

A There -- I don't know about working on the dinners. Do you mind maybe elaborating on that?

Q Yeah. Let me take a step back, actually. So, from the time that this guest list is transmitted from the Pompeos to the Protocol Office saying, we want to have a dinner, we've got a date, here's who we would like to have, based on your involvement in the process, can you just tell us what happens next and who you typically work with to operationalize that?

A At the time that it goes to Protocol, at that point, the Office of Protocol is responsible for reaching out and confirming that those on the guest list can attend.

Q Okay. So the guest list is proposed by the Pompeos; the Protocol Office reaches out and essentially takes the RSVPs, right?

A Correct.

Q So what happens next?

A So, once the guest list is confirmed, then it is shared, and they start putting together the bios and the face book.

The only thing I would add to that is, if, for some reason -- maybe it's a time that the people who were on the guest list are not available --

Q Uh-huh.

A -- the Pompeos would then supply additional names in order to ensure that the opinion leaders, that the categories are still met.

Q Okay. And what are the categories? What type of, sort of, balance do you try to achieve with these dinners?

A Yeah. I'm sorry, but we went over that. So it might be Members of Congress. It might be people from the executive branch, private sector, and, of course, always, someone -- a foreign interlocutor.

Q Okay. So, for example --

A I'm sorry, I need to add one more. Also, it could be members from the Supreme Court as well.

Q Okay. And so, if one of those buckets, if a Member of Congress had confirmed and canceled, presumably there would be a suggestion of another Member of Congress so that you could maintain that balance. Is that roughly --

A That's my understanding.

Q Does Mrs. Pompeo interact directly with the Office

of Protocol, to your knowledge, in terms of helping to keep an eye on that portion of this process that you just described, where you said you make sure the guest list is there and then they do their thing? Is Mrs. Pompeo involved in any way during that RSVP process or consulting on who replacement dignitaries might make sense to be?

A I believe she's involved in the process only in that she and the Secretary would continue to converse if there needed to be a change or an addition to the guest list.

Q Okay. And if there needed to be a change or an addition, how would Mrs. Pompeo communicate that?

A She would generally communicate it directly with the Office of the Chief of Protocol.

Q Okay. And would that typically be with Mrs. Fenton?

A My recollection is that it would be with Mrs. Fenton. Generally, the communication would include the Chief of Protocol and the Deputy Chief of Protocol as well, just because of the hierarchy in Protocol.

Q That makes sense. Who are those individuals, just so that we've got it?

A Of course. The Chief of Protocol is Cam Henderson. The Deputy Chief of Protocol is Mary-Kate Fisher.

Q Okay.

Is there typically -- I know we mentioned that there's, to your knowledge, not typically a process for coordinating

with the regional bureaus in the planning of these. Is there typically a process for coordinating with the Legal Adviser's Office just to make sure they're aware of who may come to a particular dinner?

A I don't know.

Q Okay.

And how are these dinners paid for, to your knowledge?

A To my knowledge, they're paid for -- I mean, through the State Department. But I'm not involved in how they're paid for. I'm not sure specifically how that looks.

Q Okay.

You've mentioned a couple of times that, you know, of course there's always a foreign dignitary who attends. Is it your understanding that that's a requirement in order to use Department funds to host these dinners? Or why is that important?

A That is my understanding, yes.

Q Okay. And who makes the determination for a particular dinner that that box has been checked and it's appropriate to spend government funds for, you know, this guest list for a Madison Dinner?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Do you know if there is a process?

A I don't know.

Q Okay.

What sorts of information are typically collected on guests as part of the RSVP information?

A My understanding is the information in order to issue an invitation, so a mailing address, as well as an email address.

Q Okay. And is there a database that is then kept, where you've got a list of everybody who's either been invited or attended a dinner and their contact information?

A I'm aware that there's a management tool used to understand who has attended dinners and prospective guests that would include that information once it's gathered.

Q Okay. And is there other information, other than just contact information, that is put into that management tool?

A Just, you know, it would be last name, first name, guest's last name, first name, that sort of thing.

Q Okay.

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], can I have just one moment?

HFAC Dem Counsel. Of course.

[Discussion off the record.]

Ms. Porter. I wanted to offer some additional clarification. The management tool that we were speaking of, it would include the date that -- if a particular guest has attended, the date that they attended and if they had attended. So is that -- if that's helpful.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Yeah, because, obviously, sometimes you're going to invite folks and maybe they don't show up. Do you build the management tool list off the invite list and then have to clarify whether they ultimately attended?

A So the management tool isn't built by myself, but I have seen it. And what it includes is if perhaps they have been invited and they've had to decline for whatever reason but they may have expressed an interest in attending another time.

Q Okay. And who maintains that list? Who administers that management tool?

A My understanding is it's the Office of the Chief of Protocol.

Q Okay. And do you know who has access to that list?

A I don't know within the Office of the Chief of Protocol who has access to the list. I have seen the list, I have access to the list, and the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo.

Q Are there any handling markings on that list that you recall seeing? Is it restricted in any way?

A I don't recall seeing that.

Q Okay. Is it marked as containing personal privacy information, to your recollection?

A I'm sorry, I don't recollect.

Q And just one more, just to be thorough. Is it marked in any way as sensitive but unclassified, or SBU?

A I just don't recall if it is marked.

Q Thank you.

Have you ever seen that list emailed to Mrs. Pompeo's personal account?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And for what purpose?

A I don't know.

Q Who would typically send her the list?

A My recollection is that it would be the Office of the Chief of Protocol.

Q And specifically who within the office would usually have that? Who would typically be the one to send something to Mrs. Pompeo?

A For the Madison Dinner, it would typically be Mrs. Cathy Fenton.

Q Okay. And have you ever seen correspondence where Mrs. Pompeo has affirmatively asked for those lists?

A I don't recollect. It is possible. But, generally, I believe the Office of the Chief of Protocol sends them.

Q Okay.

A Yeah, as a management tool.

Q Right. And this is those lists that are not the lists that the Pompeos propose as potential guests. This is

the comeback list of here's who either accepted or declined and attended. That's right?

A My understanding is that it's one list.

Q That is then updated as the process works its way through?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And then is the final list for a particular dinner then typically sent to Mrs. Pompeo?

A Yes. She would get the same information because she's attending the dinner, you know, a day or two before, so that she would have the bios, have the face book, and have the seating chart.

Q To your knowledge, what other State Department officials, other than the folks in the Protocol Office, Mrs. Pompeo, and Mr. Pompeo -- I apologize, Mrs. Pompeo is not a Department official. But, in addition to Mrs. Pompeo, the Secretary, and the folks in the Protocol Office, are there other State Department officials who typically get a copy of that list at any point?

Mr. Tenpas. I'm sorry, [REDACTED]. Again, the term "list" here I think is just a little bit what we're stumbling on. Because there's, as she said, one, kind of, database document that's got a variety of information, both historic and, you know, about people who've been contacted, might be contacted. But then it sounds like you're moving

towards, as to a particular dinner, a list of attendees. I just want to be clear what you're talking about here.

HFAC Dem Counsel. That's a really good point, Ron, and thank you for that.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Let me ask it in two phases, if I could.

A Of course.

Q As a general matter, are there Department officials, other than the Secretary and those in the Office of Protocol, who are typically sent this guest list information that comes out of this management tool at any point? Are there other Department officials who, as a matter of course, get access to that information?

A Again, I'm going to ask for some additional clarity.

Q Uh-huh. Sure. You know, we've been talking as a general matter, saying, you know, the Pompeos provide a guest list. I believe my understanding is correct that it then goes into this management tool, and that's sort of a living document that's updated based on who accepts and who doesn't, and that some form of information -- I won't speculate as to what the document format is -- then gets taken from that database and provided, I think you said, to Mrs. Pompeo.

Did I get all of that correct, that final list of who came and who didn't and the contact info?

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], if you'll indulge me, let me consult with her, and we'll see if we can just find a way to clear this up in one --

HFAC Dem Counsel. I appreciate it. It's hard because we haven't seen it. I'm not trying to be difficult.

Mr. Tenpas. Yeah.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Please take a moment.

[Discussion off the record.]

[12:15 p.m.]

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], I think if you'll indulge us, I think we have a way she can walk you through this in sequence that will hopefully clear this up, and then we can --

HFAC Dem Counsel. That would be really, really helpful, and then happy to move forward. Thank you so much.

Ms. Porter. Thank you.

Okay. So let me just start with the management tool I was speaking of. It is a spreadsheet. And that spreadsheet is what is -- it's the larger information with people who have -- are potential guests and who have already attended. That's the information. And that in terms of --

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q May I just pause you there real quick?

A Of course.

Q And is that one spreadsheet for each dinner, or is there a master spreadsheet for the Madison?

A It's a master spreadsheet.

Q Thank you. Please continue.

A Of course. And so the people who have access to that master spreadsheet is the Office of the Chief of Protocol who maintains it. I have seen copies of it through an email. And the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo have seen it. And to my knowledge, that's who has access to that

management tool spreadsheet.

If I could go to each individual dinner, that is --

Q Yes.

A Okay. That is, once the Office of the Chief of Protocol has a completed guest list, which is generally sometime within the week of the dinner, then that information, we know who is -- who has accepted and can attend. And then the information that then gets passed to more personnel within the building is that guest list, because the Office of the Chief of Protocol would need to communicate that to security.

We would -- they would use it to make the seating chart. And then that information, the seating chart, as I previously testified, the seating chart, the bios, and the face book would then go through the Secretary's office and be put in his book for him to review.

Q Okay. And just to make sure that we've got it, so that list -- and I think we've talked about this -- but that wouldn't typically include the regional bureaus for a particular country or the functional bureaus for a particular issue, right? It's really just who has to make the wheels turn in order to get folks smoothly in and out of the building. Is that right?

Mr. Tenpas. Excuse me. Are you now -- when you say "that list" again, are you referring to --

HFAC Dem Counsel. I'm referring to --

Mr. Tenpas. -- referring to a particular dinner, is that's what you're referencing?

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Yeah. So would the list for -- am I correct that the list for a particular dinner wouldn't normally then be shared with, say, the regional desk for the country who may be providing a guest for that dinner?

A I don't know. That would all be handled through the Office of the Chief of Protocol.

Q Okay. Thank you. I really appreciate the clarification. It's much easier once you've got somebody who's -- kind of like that elephant in the room thing, I'm trying to describe something I haven't seen. So thank you for that. Happy to move on.

A My pleasure.

Q Just one last point. There's been public reporting that Mr. Bulatao and Mrs. Pompeo had worked together to plan Mr. Pompeo's Advisory Board meetings when he was at CIA. Does Mr. Bulatao have any role in planning the Madison Dinners at the State Department?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Okay. How many dinners have there been, approximately?

A I recall that there have been approximately 20

dinners.

Q Okay. And did those begin right around the time that Secretary Pompeo arrived in April of 2018?

A The planning -- the planning of, you know, the concept, would have begun shortly after I arrived, which would have been, you know, June. I believe the first dinner, my best recollection is that it would have been in late July.

Q Sure.

A Of 2018.

Q Okay. So the first one would have been in late July of 2018, and up to the present there's been 20 or so of them? Is that right?

A That's my recollection. And the July 2018 is my -- it may have been August, I don't remember, but that's the timeframe.

Q No. And happy to stipulate, this is -- we're going back 2 years, you know, this is just your best recollection.

A Right.

Q Okay.

A Thank you.

Q So when was the last Madison Dinner?

A The last Madison Dinner, my best recollection, it was either in late January or early February.

Q And do you recall who attended that last one in late

January or early February?

A You know, the guests all kind of get jumbled in my mind. I don't specifically recall. Of course, the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo would have attended.

Q Okay. Have there been any virtual Madison Dinners since the COVID crisis sort of forced us all to go remote?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Okay. And are there any current plans to restart the Madison Dinners any time in the near future?

A I believe I've seen dates that were previously scheduled before COVID on the calendar. I don't have -- I don't know if they're underway in terms of guest list and scheduling.

Q Okay. And just so that we're precise about it, when you said you've seen dates on the calendar for things that had been in train before COVID, how recently have you seen those?

A Within the last week.

Q Okay. Do you attend these as a general matter?

A I staff the Secretary at the dinners and -- but I don't attend the dinner itself.

Q So you're -- actually, why don't you -- could you tell me, expand on that distinction between staffing and attending?

Mr. Tenpas. Give me one moment here, please, 

██████████ This is Mr. Tenpas.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yep.

[Discussion off the record.]

Ms. Porter. Okay. If I could clarify my last few sentences.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Sure.

Ms. Porter. So we were talking about a dinner. It's really more of an event. Dinner is just part of that event.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yes.

Ms. Porter. And so there's a cocktail hour, and then there is -- there's dinner. So there's two parts to the Madison Dinner event.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q And given that sort of distinction, can you just help characterize for us what your involvement is in the event?

A Okay.

Q On the night of.

A On the day of?

Q Yes.

A Okay. I actually arrive at the State Department. I arrive with the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo. And then I greet the guests after the Office of the Chief of Protocol has brought the guests to the location at the State Department, and I greet them and make introductions to the Pompeos for

those people that perhaps they haven't met before.

Q Okay. And when you say "the location," where is that?

A It's at the State Department.

Q But is that the ceremonial dining rooms on the eighth floor, or are they ever held in another place?

A Could you repeat that question?

State Department Counsel. [REDACTED], I'm sorry. This is [REDACTED] again.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Let me clarify, [REDACTED] if I could.

It's been publicly reported that they're held on the eighth floor, the ceremonial dining rooms, if that's helpful. We're just trying to clarify whether that reporting is accurate or whether they're -- and let's start with that. Is that accurate?

State Department Counsel. I have no objection to the identification of the floor in the building. I am going to object to naming of specific rooms on operational security grounds.

HFAC Dem Counsel. And we in no way want to ask anything that would implicate operational security obviously.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q So, ma'am, if you could tell us in general terms where these dinners are.

A They are on the eighth floor at the HST Building.

Q And have they all been held there?

A Yes.

Q All right. Thank you.

I think we had talked about this, but just to make sure that I've got it before we talk about it, a few of the individual dinners. Remind me, if you would, where the concept of hosting these Madison Dinners initially came from.

A It came from the Secretary in perhaps his conversation with Mrs. Pompeo. That's as much as I know.

Q And do you recall how it was relayed to you? Did the Secretary tell you this is something we want to do, or did it come through Mrs. Pompeo?

A I spoke with both of them about it. I don't recall who I spoke with first.

Q Okay. And then I know we tried this earlier with some of the special events and it can be hard, because things are a moving target, but can you give an estimate of how much of your time usually is spent on planning and attending these Madison Dinners?

A Gosh. Per dinner --

Q Or to take it as a general concept, like if you were to zoom out for the time you've been at State, you know, overall, how much time have you spent working on Madison

Dinners, to the best of your recollection?

A I think that's -- I honestly don't know.

Q Is it one of the major duties that you perform at the State Department, is working on these Madison Dinners?

A It's a major duty when we're in the final planning stages of the Madison Dinner, yes. If we're at a time when we're not in the planning stages, no.

Q During the course of your planning work on these dinners, do you typically also see budgets in terms of what the cost to the taxpayer is going to be?

A I do not.

Q Okay. So aside from yourself and folks from the Office of Protocol and the invited guests, as a general matter, are there other State Department officials who would typically attend these Madison Dinners?

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], can I suggest that you let her distinguish the different parts within the event, because I think she may stumble a little bit on the dinner, which I think in her mind is --

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yeah.

Mr. Tenpas. All these are called the dinner, but I think in her mind the dinner is a specialized moment in the event. And so just for clarity, it probably would be helpful for her to describe the sequence and then can address who she observes to be present for different moments

in the sequence, if that's okay for you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. That would be excellent. If you could please go ahead. And thank you for that.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Ms. Porter, if you could, as your counsel has suggested, just sort of walk through for us the structure of these events, what the different parts of the event are, and who you typically have observed in each of those pieces of an event.

A Once guests arrive and they have -- I've greeted them for the cocktail portion of the hour -- or the cocktail hour of the event -- the other personnel who are -- I wouldn't call them Department officials, but the other personnel who are there, there's often a musician of some sort, there are the people who are serving the appetizers, and then there's also someone who is offering beverages.

Then, after the cocktail part, then they are led into the dinner part, where only the guests and Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo are there with the exception that there are servers who, of course, would serve the dinner and the beverages.

Q Thank you.

A Oh, sometimes, one of the -- if I could clarify. From time to time there is a protocol officer who is walking through the cocktail part to ensure that the dinner is all

set up and ready to go.

Q And have you ever observed any substantive State Department policy experts at this event, at any of these events, at any portion of the evening, such as a desk officer or an Assistant Secretary with responsibility over a particular country who might have sent someone to the dinner?

A The Secretary of State attends each dinner.

Q I understand that, ma'am, but just to make sure we have a clean record on that, is the answer to my question no? Other than the Secretary, you've not otherwise observed other State Department functional or regional experts at these dinners?

A There have -- other than the Secretary of State there have not been any other State Department personnel outside of myself and the Office of the Chief of Protocol who help with the set-up. But in terms of dinner, the Secretary is, from my recollection, the only State Department official who has taken part in the dinner itself.

Q Okay. And does that also apply to the portion prior to the dinner itself, just because I know you make a distinction between the cocktail hour, the greeting of the guests? Is that also just the Secretary?

A Outside of what I've said earlier, that myself, that I'm there, and there are potentially people from the Office

of the Chief of Protocol.

Q Okay. You mentioned just the serving staff, the butlers and folks. Are those all employed by the Chief of Protocol, or the Protocol Office, or are they contracted for a particular event?

A I don't know.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay. I think I'm going to stop there and yield the remaining minute and a half, just because sequentially the next couple things we'd like to talk about, I don't want to get into it and then have to stop.

Would you like a short break before we turn it over to our Republican colleagues?

Ms. Porter. I'm okay for the next minute and 20 seconds.

HFAC Dem Counsel. That's fine. I'm not going to use that time, so this would be probably be an appropriate point for a break if you would like one.

Ms. Porter. Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Sorry, I should have said that better.

Mr. Tenpas. Can I make a request or suggestion? We're at 12:30. I think if we could take maybe 15 minutes this time -- we've got a little bit of refreshment -- so Ms. Porter can refuel, and then if we could come back in,

like, 15 instead of 5.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yeah.

Mr. Tenpas. That would allow us to kind of move forward expeditiously, using that as kind of a very brief lunch interlude as well.

HFAC Dem Counsel. And we appreciate it. That's fine by me. Does 12:45 or so work for you folks?

Mr. Tenpas. That would be terrific for us.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Great.

Thank you so much. We're off the record.

[Recess.]

[12:41 p.m.]

HFAC Dem Counsel. [REDACTED], if you're there, we're happy to turn it over.

HFAC Republican Counsel. Ms. Porter, I do not have any questions. I'm going to turn it over to [REDACTED] to see if he has any.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Thanks, [REDACTED].

I just wanted to reiterate what [REDACTED] was saying earlier. I have done, you know, I've done, I don't know, 75 of these things during my time here on the Hill, and this was, I think, probably one of the quickest lunch breaks I've ever had. So thank you for that. Much appreciated.

And with that, I will kick it back to [REDACTED]. Thank you.

HFAC Republican Counsel. Okay. [REDACTED], we will yield back the balance of our time.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay. Thank you very much.

If we could just restart the clock, please.

BY HFAC Counsel:

Q Ms. Porter, thank you again. Appreciate you coming back quickly for lunch.

We'd like to ask you some questions about a couple of the dinners in particular. I know you had said earlier that some of these kind of blend together. So we'll do our best to refresh our recollection, and if you could just sort of

help walk us through with whatever you're able to recall, we would appreciate that, if that's okay.

A Of course.

Q Okay. So to begin with, we understand from public reporting that among the people who had been invited to the Madison Dinners, and I think you mentioned earlier in your testimony, were two Supreme Court justices.

A I don't remember mentioning that in my testimony. I mentioned that it would be a type of person that we would invite or that would be invited.

Q Thank you. And that's an important clarification.

So it's been publicly reported that at least two Supreme Court Justices were actually invited to a Madison Dinner. What can you recall about invitations to Supreme Court Justices to these dinners?

A All I know is, if the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo put them on the guest list, that I would have known that once it was added.

Q Okay. So if there were particular Justices that were chosen out of the nine, that wouldn't have been your decision, those would have been selected by the Pompeos and you would just help to facilitate that.

A Yes.

Q Okay. So it's been reported that the two Supreme Court Justices who were invited were Justices Alito and

Gorsuch. Do you know if either of them ever attended one of these Madison Dinners?

A I don't recall about Justice Alito. I don't remember Justice Gorsuch attending a dinner. I don't know -- I don't remember if he was invited or not.

Q Okay. So you don't have a recollection of whether or not Mr. Alito ever attended one of these dinners?

A I just don't recall.

Q Okay. There's also been public reporting around a gentleman named David Urban. Do you know who that is?

A Could you repeat the name?

Q David Urban.

A Yes, I do.

Q Okay. Was Mr. Urban ever invited to a Madison Dinner?

A My recollection is yes.

Q Okay. And tell us, if you could, who is Mr. Urban, please?

A The only thing I know about Mr. Urban is I do recall that he was a classmate of the Secretary's at West Point, I believe, and beyond that, I don't know anything more about him.

Q Do you recall who some of the other guests might have been at the particular dinner that he was invited to attend?

State Department Counsel. [REDACTED], I'm sorry, this is -- oh, this is [REDACTED]. If you have press reporting on these things, I understand that, and that's based on that. But notwithstanding the inquiries earlier about how things were marked, the Department believes there are, since these are nonpublic, nonmedia-covered events at the time, that there are privacy interests of the attendees.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Sir, there has been public reporting on who attended these functions. I think that Ms. Porter has testified at some length that one of the people who was mainly responsible for putting together the guest lists of this and passing them on was Mrs. Pompeo, who I believe we've established is not an employee of the State Department. And we've not asked her specifically about any record that may or may not be in the possession of the State Department.

We're just asking her for her best recollection about who else attended an event that I think she testified as a general matter she would have staffed.

And my understanding from press reporting is that most, if not many of those individuals, would either be from outside of the State Department or would be from either the business sector or the media sector in such a way that obviously no privileges could apply.

So if we could go step by step through what she is able

to recall about who attended particular events while she is sitting here, we're happy to go question by question, and if there is something posed that you think warrants an objection, we'd ask you make it based on a specific question.

State Department Counsel. [REDACTED], you and I have had similar situations. All I'm suggesting is, it would be easiest, if you have particular individuals that have been reported in the press and you're trying to confirm whether or not they attended, that would be the simplest thing from the Department's point of view.

HFAC Dem Counsel. I appreciate that, and to the extent that we're able, we're happy to do that. I think it's also relevant to the committee's investigation to establish whether or not there were other individuals who attended a particular event that may or may not have been publicly reported.

But again, let's try that approach and see if we can get to a place. We don't want to make the witness uncomfortable, and we're happy to make sure that this moves expeditiously.

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], can I take a moment and consult with Ms. Porter? There may be a way to cut through this relatively expeditiously if you'll give me a moment to consult with her.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Happy to.

And just for the sake of the reporters, that was Mr. Tenpas.

[Discussion off the record.]

Mr. Tenpas. Hello? Hello, are you guys there?

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yes. Sorry, just took a moment.

Mr. Tenpas. No, I thought I just disconnected our speaker so I had a moment of panic. Sorry. This is Mr. Tenpas.

I have a suggestion here. I think the pending question was could Ms. Porter associate any other guests with a particular dinner that Mr. Urban attended.

HFAC Dem Counsel. That is correct.

Mr. Tenpas. It might be sensible to ask her, you know, given that there were 20, is she going to be able to associate particular guests, you know, being at the same dinners. I think, you know, broadly, the answer to that is no.

So you can take care of, in a general question without getting into specifics potentially, you know, what's her ability to say these two were at the same event.

Then it seems to me you may have a set of questions, based on your public reporting, as to did specific individuals come to some event along the way. She may be able to answer or recall some of those or not.

And maybe if you took it in that way, obviously it's your questioning, but if you took it in that way we would then -- I don't know whether there will be any pot of questions left that you're interested in, but it's at least a way to kind of get you some information and narrow down if there's going to be scope or confidentiality disputes between you and [REDACTED], sort of limit to those where they really arise.

So, you know, that would be my suggestion to you. Obviously it's your deposition.

HFAC Dem Counsel. I think we're happy to do that, and I appreciate the constructive suggestion.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Ma'am, to go back to Mr. Urban, who, as you testified, was a former West Point classmate of Secretary Pompeo's, we also understand, among other things, to have been a former lobbyist for the defense contractor Raytheon, I believe you had said that you have a recollection that he attended one of these dinners. Did I get that right?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Do you have any other recollection about the dinner that Mr. Urban attended other than the fact that he went to one?

A I do not. I do not have any other recollection.

Q And as a general matter, when you are assisting

Mrs. Pompeo and the Secretary and the Protocol Office --
Oversight Dem Counsel. It looks like [REDACTED]'s screen
is frozen. We'll address that momentarily.

HFAC Republican Counsel. Yeah. Just to
confirm -- this is [REDACTED] with Foreign Affairs
Republicans -- we can still see you and everything, so I
think it's on [REDACTED]'s end.

Mr. Tenpas. Thank you. Yeah, we are not hearing
anything from [REDACTED], and we are not observing him any
longer.

Oversight Dem Counsel. We can take this off the record
momentarily while we resolve the technical issues.

[Discussion off the record.]

Oversight Dem Counsel. Okay. I think we'll resume and
go back on the record if everyone's all right with that.

Mr. Tenpas. Yes. This is Mr. Tenpas. We're prepared
to go back on the record. Thank you.

Oversight Dem Counsel. Great. Apologies again for
that. We are doing the best we can under the circumstances.

Where [REDACTED] left off, we were discussing a Madison
Dinner. And, Ms. Porter, you mentioned recalling that Mr.
Urban was invited to a Madison Dinner. Is that correct?

Ms. Porter. Yes.

Oversight Dem Counsel. And I think, forgive me if he
got through this question while we were trying to sort

through things, did you recall --

Mr. Tenpas. I'm sorry, [REDACTED]. Sorry, it didn't appear that the timer was running. I see it now has commenced. Thank you. I apologize for the intervention.

Oversight Dem Counsel. No problem.

BY Oversight Dem Counsel:

Q So returning to the question about that dinner, I believe [REDACTED] was asking, do you recall any other guests at the dinner that Mr. Urban attended?

A I don't have a recollection of who the other guests were at that dinner.

Q Do you recall when that dinner was?

A I don't, no.

Q In the scheme of the approximately 20 dinners you believe were held, do you recall it being in the earlier part of that or later on?

A My recollection is that it would have been earlier on rather than later on, but I don't know the date.

Q That's fine. And earlier on, would that be, you know, later in 2018, earlier in 2019 potentially?

A I'm afraid I don't recollect.

Q Okay. Do you recall who was involved in the guest list planning for that dinner in particular?

A The Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo would have been involved.

Q And the Office of the Chief of Protocol as well?

A They're the ones who would have issued the invitations.

Q Okay. [REDACTED] may have further questions on that one. We're pinch-hitting a little bit here. But I want to turn to another dinner and another public report about a guest at another dinner.

It's been publicly reported that Raytheon CEO Thomas Kennedy attended a Madison Dinner. Do you recall Mr. Kennedy being at a dinner?

A Yes.

Q And do you recall when that dinner was?

A I don't recollect.

Q And do you recall any other guests at that dinner?

A I'm sorry, I remember specific people potentially at dinners, but I don't -- I don't recall who together were at a dinner.

Q And I believe it's also been publicly reported that National Security Advisor -- now National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien was at that same dinner. Does that help your recollection?

A It does not. I recollect that Mr. O'Brien was at a dinner, but I don't recollect which dinner.

Q And a similar question with the same dinner on the Saudi Ambassador to the United States?

State Department Counsel. I'm going to -- I'm sorry, [REDACTED] again. And whether in press conference reports or not, the Department believes that for operational security and sanctity of diplomatic relations, there will be no discussion of the foreign officials who were guests at this dinner.

Oversight Dem Counsel. To be clear, are you instructing Ms. Porter not to answer that question?

State Department Counsel. I am.

BY Oversight Dem Counsel:

Q Ms. Porter, are you refusing to answer that question?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And without asking about another foreign official, another individual, based on public reporting, Brian Kilmeade, a host on FOX News?

A What about him?

Q Do you recall him attending a dinner, one of these Madison Dinners?

A Yes.

Q And do you recall whether it was the same one that the CEO of Raytheon, Mr. Kennedy, attended?

A I don't recall.

Oversight Dem Counsel. Okay. I'm going to check quickly on [REDACTED]'s technical difficulties again, and then

we may resume momentarily. We can just keep the clock running since this will be a very quick check-in.

[Discussion off the record.]

Oversight Dem Counsel. Okay. Are you ready to continue, Ms. Porter?

Ms. Porter. Yes.

BY Oversight Dem Counsel:

Q Thank you.

One other dinner, again based on public reporting. Kansas Senator Pat Roberts had spoken to The Wall Street Journal in May of this year about a Kansas-specific dinner, I believe is his characterization, or at least that was the discussion he recalled. Do you recall Senator Roberts attending one of these dinners?

A I recall him attending a dinner, yes.

Q And do you recall when that was?

A My recollection is that it was in 2020.

Q Do you recall then if that was the last one you recall happening, as you described earlier?

A I don't recall. I believe that there -- my recollection is there were two dinners in 2020. I don't recall which one he attended.

Q Okay. Do you recall when those two dinners were?

A I believe they were toward the end of January or 1st of February. I don't remember the exact dates.

Q And regarding the dinner that Senator Roberts attended, do you recall, you know, anything in particular about the planning, how far in advance that one was planned?

A I don't recall.

Q Do you recall who was involved in the planning for that dinner?

A It would have been the same as the other dinners.

Q So that's Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo?

A Yes. Made the guest list, yes.

Q And then the Protocol Office would have been involved in sending out invitations?

A That's my understanding.

Q Now, Senator Roberts, in his interview, described the dinner, saying, quote, "All we did was talk about Kansas, Wichita, just a bunch of stories that we shared, and had a good time." And he also said, "There was nothing more to it than that. I think he's had a series of those," referring to the events.

Do you recall discussion about Kansas at that dinner in your role in introducing guests and whatnot?

A So I am -- I am not inside -- in the room. It's a private dinner, and I'm not at the table.

Q Well, how about at the cocktail hour or preceding event you discussed earlier?

A The Pompeos, they and I, have known Senator Roberts

for a number of years. I'm sure Kansas would have come up.

Q Do you recall discussions that you were present for in that part of the event with the Senator and with the Pompeos?

A I wasn't involved in the conversations the Pompeos had with the Senator.

Q Are you familiar with speculation in the media earlier this year that Mr. -- excuse me -- that Secretary Pompeo was considering a run for Senate in Kansas himself?

A I'm aware of the media reports, yes.

Q And did that topic, his considering that run for political office, come up in the context of this dinner?

A Not to my -- not to my knowledge. I wasn't -- I didn't -- I wasn't aware of that topic coming up. But again, I wasn't in the dinner.

Q Are you aware of anyone within the State Department raising that issue in connection with this dinner?

Mr. Tenpas. This is Mr. Tenpas. I'm sorry. That issue --

Oversight Dem Counsel. Apologies.

Mr. Tenpas. [Inaudible.]

Oversight Dem Counsel. The possibility of Secretary Pompeo running for Senate in Kansas.

Ms. Porter. Could you restate the question?

BY Oversight Dem Counsel:

Q Sure. Were you aware of anyone within the State Department raising any concerns or discussing the possibility of Secretary Pompeo running for Senate in connection with the dinner that Senator Roberts attended?

A Not to my knowledge, no.

Q Okay. I want to ask a few more general questions about the categories of dinner guests and event guests as you discussed earlier.

So you mentioned that guests would sometimes come from the media and the private sector. Is that right?

A Correct.

Q Were any concerns raised within the State Department about any categories of guests coming from within the media or the private sector specifically?

A I don't know.

Q Was there ever any discussion about the balance of guests in that respect? You discussed -- excuse me -- you discussed balance of guests earlier in terms of the guest list overall. Is that right?

A I don't remember specifically talking about balance. If you could restate it in a way that I can understand, I would appreciate that.

Q Sure. I think when [REDACTED] and you were discussing the categories of attendees at the dinners -- Members of Congress, other administration officials, what I just

mentioned with the private sector -- you discussed there being an attempt to have a balance among those categories on the guest list?

A Yes. That there would be representation from a number of different categories, that's correct.

Q Right. And if someone from a category had to drop off, potentially there would be discussion about replacing them to ensure that similar representation was present?

A That's my understanding.

Q And so then within the Department were concerns raised about the balance of guests in terms of political ideology in attendance at these dinners?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q Were there concerns raised -- it's been publicly reported that officials from sporting organizations, including Major League Baseball and others, attended these events. Was there any discussion about their foreign policy expertise or contribution to the dinner from that respect within the State Department?

A I don't recollect that sort of discussion.

Q And any similar discussion in terms of business leaders from the private sector and their nexus with the foreign policy purpose of the dinner?

A No specific discussion outside of just ensuring that the mission of the State Department was shared outside of

the Beltway.

Q And in what respects would you seek to ensure that, and how so?

A By having domestic guests outside of the Beltway that represent different categories of thought leaders.

Oversight Dem Counsel. Okay. I'll take a quick pause again there to check with my colleague and just understand where things stand in terms of our planning here. But again, we appreciate your patience and indulgence.

[Discussion off the record.]

Oversight Dem Counsel. One additional question, if I may, on the dinners at this point. Did anyone within the Department raise concerns about State Department funds being used for these dinners, to your knowledge?

Ms. Porter. Not to my knowledge.

Oversight Dem Counsel. Okay. Thank you.

I believe [REDACTED] is almost back or there will be an alternate solution momentarily. So again, thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Can you guys see me?

Oversight Dem Counsel. There we go.

Ms. Porter. I can see you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you so much. I apologize. I'm sure somehow this is my kids' fault.

Ms. Porter. Always.

HFAC Dem Counsel. If it's okay with you, could we just

take 3 minutes while I catch up with my colleagues just to discuss what was covered in my absence, and then we'll be right back?

Mr. Tenpas. That would be fine. [REDACTED] for your ease, we'd be happy to simply step out, and so you all can converse.

HFAC Dem Counsel. I appreciate it. We've asked a lot of you already. But if we could just do 5 minutes, if people want to stretch their legs, that's fine too, and then we'll come right back.

Mr. Tenpas. Okay.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay. Great. Thank you.

[Recess.]

HFAC Dem Counsel. So we can go back on the record, please.

Oversight Dem Counsel. Thank you very much.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Ma'am, I understand you covered several of the Madison Dinners with my colleague [REDACTED] in my absence. Thank you for doing that.

I'd like to move away from that now. We've spent a bunch of time on it.

Can you tell us, please, are there other sorts of activities that you do for Mrs. Pompeo, or where Mrs. Pompeo gives you direction from the Secretary but she's the one

relaying it, that we haven't discussed today, other than these Madison Dinners and some of the special events we referred to at the beginning?

A The one thing that comes to mind is that she is invited from time to time to participate in a Department function on her own as opposed to accompanying the Secretary. And when that happens, the organization -- or the Department, I should say, within the Department, would reach out to me as a primary point, initial point of contact.

Q And so why do folks at the Department know you as the primary point of contact for when Mrs. Pompeo has been invited to participate in something?

A I believe it's my role of helping deconflict the calendars of the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo. And they've just -- I, early on, made a commitment to get to know the different people at the departments, and so they knew how to reach me.

Q So folks know that if they need to do something, need to schedule something regarding Mrs. Pompeo, they can't reach her directly, that, you know, as far as State Department employees that they can go to who might help them to coordinate Mrs. Pompeo's schedule, that that would be you. Is that right?

A I would be one of the people, yes.

Q Okay. Has Mrs. Pompeo ever asked you to make dinner reservations for the family?

A I have made dinner reservations for -- potentially for the family. I have made dinner reservations, yes.

Q So when you say "potentially," can you tell me why you said potentially?

A Well, I don't remember if it was specifically for the family or for -- for the Secretary, Mrs. Pompeo, and others.

Q Okay. Have all of the reservations that you've made for Mrs. Pompeo been related to the Secretary's official business?

Mr. Tenpas. Well, [REDACTED], I think I'm going to object there. You just said reservations she made for Mrs. Pompeo. I don't think that's how she described it. I think she said she's involved in making reservations potentially at her request, but for Mrs. Pompeo and the Secretary.

HFAC Dem Counsel. I appreciate the distinction, Ron, and I apologize, that was inartful, and I'm still catching up, having got my internet back. So let me rephrase.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Have you ever made -- have all of the reservations that you've made at Mrs. Pompeo's request been connected in some way to the Secretary's official business?

A It is my understanding that in some way it was connected to the Secretary's official business.

Q Okay. And what do you base that understanding on?

A I base the understanding on that if the reservation is being made, often it includes the Secretary. And if not, it's a reservation being made that is for Mrs. Pompeo in her role as the spouse of the Secretary.

Q So when you say "in her role as the spouse of the Secretary," what does that mean?

A What I mean by that is that, would she be going to the lunch if she weren't the Secretary's spouse? And if not, then -- that's how I determine if it's official or not.

Q And what would be some criteria that you would look to, to answer that question?

A Yeah, of course. One would be if she's having lunch with the spouse of an ambassador to the United States for a foreign country -- from a foreign country. That would be an example of -- that would be a lunch that she's having, not because she's Susan Pompeo, but because she's the spouse of the Secretary.

Q And is that something that you typically check with people on or clarify, or do you sort of trust your discretion and say, well, based on what I know about this particular dinner, I think this is a reservation that has to do with your role as the Secretary's spouse as opposed to

your personal role? Do you just sort of make that call?

A I do use my discretion, yes.

Q Okay. How often would you say you've made dinner reservations at the request of Mrs. Pompeo while you've been employed at the State Department?

A Gosh, that's a hard -- that's hard to nail down. Maybe -- maybe once a month. Maybe -- maybe sometimes twice a month.

Q And were these reservations, to your knowledge, that were being -- where the dinner was being paid for with Department funds, or were they being paid for with the Pompeos' personal funds? Do you know?

A My recollection, if it's an outside dinner, I wasn't there involved in the payment, but my recollection is that it would have been -- I think it would have been personal, but I wasn't there. I don't know how it was paid for.

Q Okay. Did you ever make dinner reservations for them where the only people who were attending were members of their family --

A Yes.

Q -- as opposed to other guests?

A Yes.

Q I'm sorry, I spoke over you. You did.

Were those reservations that you made where it was just the Pompeo family related to her role as the spouse of the

Secretary of State?

A No. And when it was the family, to elaborate a little bit so that it makes a little more sense, as you might expect, when the Secretary of State goes to dinner in public it's not as simple as going in and finding a table. There would just be no privacy.

And in addition to that, it's difficult. The restaurant would need to know that they would need space for a security detail and that sort of thing.

And so when I am involved in making those reservations, all of those factors come into play.

Q And so if I understand you correctly, there's sort of two buckets of reservations, one you characterized as saying maybe a dinner with the spouse of an ambassador, which would be, you know, more plainly related to the spouse of the ambassador presumably wants to have a meal with you because you're the wife of the Secretary of State. That would be one category.

And then the other, as you've just testified, would be reservations that are really just handling logistics for the Pompeo family to go out to dinner. But as you said, the Pompeos going out to dinner, given that he's the Secretary of State, is more complicated than, say, you or I. Is that right?

A Yes, that's correct.

Q And how frequently would you say that you were tasked with making the arrangements or helping to facilitate things for the Pompeo family to go out to dinner and whatever that may entail, that second category?

A When you say "Pompeo family," can you elaborate on that?

Q Things where -- and again, I'm trying to just distinguish between those that you said were more related to her role as the spouse of the Secretary, versus things that I would colloquially say are more personal, but that given that he's the Secretary, there are nonetheless logistical things that you help to help them work.

Mr. Tenpas. Can I take a moment and consult? I think there's some confusion here that maybe we can clear up for her if I can just have a moment to speak with her.

HFAC Dem Counsel. I'd be happy -- and just again for the reporters, that was Ron.

Mr. Tenpas. I'm sorry. That was Mr. Tenpas.

[Discussion off the record.]

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], thank you. If I could make a suggestion here.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Uh-huh.

Mr. Tenpas. I think where we're stumbling a little bit is what you mean by a family event and just try to cut direct -- I'm sorry, this is Mr. Tenpas -- just cut direct

to the chase on this.

There could be sort of dinners that basically involve them as -- Mr. and Mrs. Pompeo as a couple without their kids. And then there might be an event that involves their children or what you might say broader family.

I think it would just help for us to understand, or for her to understand, what you mean by family event. Is it -- does it include ones with just the two of them, or are you sort of focused on, no, when it's the two of them, plus, for example, their son?

HFAC Dem Counsel. So what I would like to -- if I could again bifurcate, using Ms. Porter's example, you know, the wife of an ambassador, right, or a foreign counterpart and that counterpart's spouse attending, that's not the question. The question would be dinners that you've arranged that are for the Pompeos as a couple with their son or with their personal friends. If we could treat that as one category that is distinct from, you know, their dealings with foreign policy interlocutors, would that work?

Ms. Porter. Yes.

Mr. Tenpas. That's fine. We'll treat that as a collective group, and you can call that what you want. But now we understand what's within that group. Thank you.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q So I'm going to refer to that as a personal dinner,

to distinguish it, as you had said, from ones where there are foreign policy interlocutors, if that's okay with you, or if you have a better term, I'm happy to use that.

A Yes, you can use personal dinner if you're talking about people who aren't foreign interlocutors, sure.

Q Okay. So how often has Mrs. Pompeo asked you to make reservations for personal dinners, as we've just defined them?

A Again, I would say once or twice a month.

Q Okay. And for those personal dinners what does she ask you to do other than -- I don't know if you go to Open Table or just call a restaurant. Like, you've indicated that this is more complicated than it is for the average person. Can you just tell us, please, what's entailed in you making these reservations for personal dinners for the Pompeos?

A Of course. I have developed points of contacts at a number of different restaurants here in the D.C. area. And because Open Table wouldn't allow me to distinguish the security detail and the type of room that would be best suited for the Secretary of State, I reach out to my points of contacts at the restaurants, explain what kind of environments that would be suitable, and if they could accommodate that.

Q Okay. And you said that's about once or twice a

month that you would make arrangements like that?

A Roughly.

Q Okay. How about reservations for the theater or for a movie, sort of entertainment stuff that would again be that personal outing, as we've characterized this, has Mrs. Pompeo ever asked you to make personal theater or movie reservations for her?

A I don't recall being asked to make theater or movie reservations.

Q Okay. How about personal hotel reservations for their personal travel?

A I have very occasionally reached out for something that would be considered personal travel. But again it's -- it has to do with the security detail and the team that travels, whenever the Secretary travels, whether it's personal or business.

[1:54 p.m.]

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Right. And understanding that the security detail, the Diplomatic Security folks, perform a crucial function and that, for someone at the level of Secretary of State, that that's around the clock.

Is there a reason, to your knowledge, that the outreach to the restaurants or the movies or whatever, given that a lot of it impacts the security detail, is there a reason

that that goes through you and not through Diplomatic Security?

A Diplomatic Security would -- my understanding is that's just not a function they serve. They do -- once a -- my understanding of how it works is, once a location has been determined, then they go do advance work and ensure that everything is set up before he gets there. But in terms of making the original arrangements, that's, to my understanding, not what Diplomatic Security does.

Q Okay.

Has Mrs. Pompeo ever asked you to relay messages of a personal nature to those Diplomatic Security folks when they're scouting a restaurant? Has she ever said, hey, if they're going there anyway, tell them to ask the restaurant about something?

A I don't recall such a thing.

Q Okay.

Did she ever ask you to come to her home to do anything for her while you were working at the State Department, like, during business hours?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Can you tell us about that, please?

A Yes. When a woman by the name of Taya Kyle -- she had attended a Madison Dinner and, during that dinner, had shared with the -- she and the Secretary had a conversation

about her nonprofit organization, and because it's related to military, military families, first responders, the Secretary had an interest in learning more about it.

And so he asked her to give me her card so that she would -- and her my card so that she could reach out --

Q And just to clarify, when you say "she," you mean Ms. Kyle, right?

A Ms. Kyle, yes.

Q Sorry, just for clarity. Please continue.

A Oh, that's fine.

And so she did reach out. And when she was going to -- she does not live here -- when she was going to be in town, the Secretary was not available, and so he asked Mrs. Pompeo to meet with her.

Q Okay. And I think that that had been prompted by a question about whether or not you ever went to Mrs. Pompeo's home. Did the meeting take place at their home?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And, obviously, not providing an address or any identifying information, but can you tell us roughly where their home is located?

A In Arlington.

Q Okay. It's been publicly reported that that's on a U.S. military base. Is that accurate?

A That's my understanding.

Q Okay.

HFAC Dem Counsel. I think, with a minute on the clock and given the indulgence of everybody with my technical difficulties, I will pause there for a moment to turn it over to my Republican colleagues.

And just for context for you -- I know we've done a bunch today -- I think we've got one more round of questions once our colleagues are finished, and that would be it. Would you like a break before we turn it over?

Ms. Porter. Do you guys need a break? I'm okay.

Mr. Tenpas. Hang on just a moment.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yep. Can we go off the record?

[Discussion off the record.]

HFAC Dem Counsel. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], over to you guys.

HFAC Republican Counsel. Hi. I'm going to just turn it right over to [REDACTED] for any questions he has.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Thanks, [REDACTED].

If you guys will bear me with for a second, I'm sending a couple exhibits over that I believe I'm going to introduce. So I'm going to do that forthwith here.

Oh, sorry. I was talking on mute. I'm sorry.

So I just forwarded three exhibits that I think I'm going to discuss. I would appreciate if the -- I guess the witness didn't look at them until I introduce them.

Obviously, [REDACTED], you can look at them. But just to make sure we have integrity on what we're looking at here --

HFAC Dem Counsel. And just confirming, they did make their way over to us. Thank you, [REDACTED].

Oversight Republican Counsel. All right. Yeah. Thanks for arranging that and doing that.

I'm sorry. I sent the right exhibits, but I don't have the right exhibits in front of me. For somebody who likes to complain about other people not being organized, this is not a good look for me.

All right. So, if we can open up the first exhibit, I think the title of the file is called "Ignatius," is the title of the file, "Ignatius." And what this exhibit is -- I'll mark it as exhibit 1.

[Porter Exhibit No. 1

Was marked for identification.]

Oversight Republican Counsel. And what this exhibit is is -- oh, [REDACTED], that's outstanding. Thank you very much. That's beyond my technical capabilities, obviously. Thank you.

So what this is is an opinion piece by David Ignatius in The Washington Post -- there it is right there; thank you, Sam -- May 26, 2020, and the title is "Pompeo's 'Madison Dinners' Aren't Scandalous. I Went to One."

So I'll give the witness and her counsel a second to

read that.

Mr. Tenpas. Thank you. If you'll give us just a moment, I'm going to let her scan it on our personal device so she can look at it at her own pace and won't have to rely on the screen version there.

Oversight Republican Counsel. No problem.

Ms. Porter. Yes, I've scanned the document.

BY Oversight Republican Counsel:

Q Okay. Do you recall a Madison Dinner -- do you know who David Ignatius is?

A Yes, I do.

Q And do you recall a Madison Dinner that he attended?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Have you read this opinion piece that he wrote?

A I scanned it just now, and I had read it previously.

Q Okay. Does it seem like an accurate representation of the dinner that he attended, to the extent you can remember?

A That's my recollection, yes.

Q Okay.

I would appreciate it if you could read for us, starting with the paragraph, "Similar events take place." The first page, "Similar events take place," if you could read that paragraph and the next paragraph.

A "Similar events take place nearly every night in some embassy or think tank, when the city isn't shut down by a pandemic. The idea is that people will do their jobs better if they know each other, have a drink, socialize. I think that's probably true, including for journalists. One reason Washington is such a nasty, partisan place these days is that people don't see each other outside work.

"On the way to dinner, Susan Pompeo gathered the guests for a talk about some of the heirlooms -- the fine china and porcelain that have been assembled over the years, thanks to private donations that began during the Kennedy administration. She spoke without notes and with detailed knowledge of the items in the collection. She's an active, engaged spouse now, as she was when Pompeo headed the CIA. That strikes me as a positive, not a negative."

Q Okay. Thank you very much.

And let's go to page 2 of the document. And if you can read, starting with the paragraph, "The only surprise about the dinner." And then read the next four paragraphs after that until the end of the opinion piece, if you could do that.

A My pleasure.

Q Thank you.

A "The only surprise about the dinner for me was that I was there at all. My wife and I had received our

invitations in October. Two weeks before the event, on Nov. 5, I had published a column with the headline: 'Where is Mike Pompeo? He's Hiding in Fear of Donald Trump.' The Ukraine investigation was unfolding then, and I wrote that while Trump was attacking former ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, Pompeo 'has essentially been hiding, protecting himself while his subordinates took the hit.'

"I didn't mince words: 'Pompeo has badly tarnished his reputation in accommodating Trump. He joins the long list of those damaged by their service to this president.'

"After that column appeared, I called one of Pompeo's top aides and said that if he preferred to withdraw his dinner invitation, I would understand: Nobody should have to socialize with someone if it's going to be uncomfortable. But the aide, after consultation, said no problem, come ahead. Pompeo and his wife were gracious throughout the evening.

"I've criticized Pompeo since that dinner, noting, for example, 'he has a belligerent streak that even his supporters have long recognized is a severe liability.' I've also endorsed policies of his that I thought were sensible. That's the way it's supposed to work. We tell the truth, upside and down. This is journalism, not war.

"To be clear: Our democracy faces some severe threats under President Trump. But social events at the State

Department with the secretary and his wife are not among them."

Q Thank you very much.

Mr. Tenpas. Excuse me. This is Mr. Tenpas.

I just want to note for our record, there are places in that reading where the column itself has quotation marks to indicate that the column is quoting something that had been written earlier. Ms. Porter, understandably, didn't identify all the quotation marks. So, just for, you know, general accuracy, I think I want to -- we should note that, that some of the text is Mr. Ignatius quoting himself from prior writings, as we understand it.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Thank you, Ron. And this is an exhibit, so it should be attached to the official transcript. But I obviously appreciate that clarification.

Thank you, Toni, for reading that.

You know, I'll tell you what I got out of this article, or this opinion piece. You know, there was a journalist -- who's a fantastic novelist, by the way, as a side note. But a journalist, highly critical of the Secretary, gets invited to one of these dinners; asks if they want to rescind the invitation because of his criticism of the Secretary; the Secretary graciously says, no, you can still come; comes, engages in a social event with foreign dignitaries and other individuals; talks about how Mrs.

Pompeo walks them through some of the private donations given to the Department, official gifts from foreign governments dating back 50 years; and then basically concludes there's no there there, you know, let's talk about real things. And so that's what I got out of the article. And I appreciate you reading that for us.

Next, I'm going to introduce exhibit No. 2. And exhibit No. 2 is going to be the document titled -- "Isabelle emails" is the title of the document, "Isabelle emails." So feel free to open that up.

I'll introduce that as exhibit 2.

[Porter Exhibit No. 2

Was marked for identification.]

Oversight Republican Counsel. It's three pages of emails. And let's take a look at those. You can take a look at them, and then I'll ask you about them in a minute. Feel free to take your time.

Mr. Tenpas. Okay. We're going to need a moment. We've having a technical challenge here --

Oversight Republican Counsel. Okay.

Mr. Tenpas. -- in getting that document to open --

Oversight Republican Counsel. Okay. I'm sorry.

Mr. Tenpas. -- on a separate device here.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Thank you, [REDACTED].

Mr. Tenpas. All right. We've now gotten it open on a

separate device, so she can scan it here. And if you give us -- I'm sorry, this is all Mr. Tenpas. If you give us a moment, she'll review.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Of course. Thank you.

Mr. Tenpas. This is Mr. Tenpas. Ms. Porter has had a chance to scan through the document.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Okay. Thanks, Ron.

BY Oversight Republican Counsel:

Q We can take this page by page, Toni.

So page 1 here is an email from "H," and the email address is HDR22@clintonemail.com. "H" is Hillary Clinton, former Secretary Clinton. And the email is written Sunday, March 25, 2012, and so it's during her tenure as Secretary of State. And it's to a lady named Monica Hanley.

Do you know who Monica Hanley is?

A I don't, no.

Q Okay. Monica Hanley is -- and if you look up at the very top, her response, [REDACTED]@state.gov, so it's written to her official State Department email address.

Monica Hanley was Secretary Clinton's confidential assistant. She worked for Secretary Clinton when she was in the Senate and then came over and joined her at the State Department.

And there's a CC here to Huma Abedin. Do you know who Huma Abedin is?

A I have heard her name.

Q Okay. Huma Abedin was the Deputy Chief of Staff to Secretary Clinton while she was at the Department and also previously worked for her in her Senate office.

So the subject of this email is, "Pls be sure Isabelle knows NOT to come tomorrow." Do you know who that Isabelle is that she's referring to?

A I do not.

Q No. Okay.

And then the next line -- actually, the body of the email says, "And be sure Marina knows so she doesn't worry that I'm working from home."

Do you know who Marina is?

A No.

Q No. Okay.

Let's go to the second page here. The second page -- thank you, [REDACTED]. On the ball.

From Hillary Clinton, and then it's to Monica Hanley. And then a private email address for Monica Hanley. And then the subject is "What time will Isabelle come?"

And, again, you don't know who Isabelle is, do you?

A No.

Q No. Okay. And then the response from Monica's official State Department address is, "Confirmed for 945am, per direction from Huma."

Let's go to the third page. This is from Tuesday, April 10, 2012, from Hillary, a private email address, not an official State email address -- so circumventing the Federal Records Act, but that's neither here nor there -- to Monica Hanley on her official State Department email address. Subject, "What time is Isabelle coming?"

And then Monica Hanley's response is, "7am but wanted to double check with you on that. Does that still work? I'm in the spare so can help you with your things."

Now, you don't know who this Isabelle is that Secretary Clinton and Monica Hanley are talking about, do you?

A I do not, no.

Q All right.

Well, let's open up the third attachment that I sent, and I'll mark this as exhibit 3.

[Porter Exhibit No. 3

Was marked for identification.]

BY Oversight Republican Counsel:

Q The attachment's name is "Isabelle," is the name of the attachment.

Thank you, [REDACTED].

So this is an article from July 12, 2016, from a website called TheCut.com. You can take as much time as you need to review it. I'm just going to ask you a couple very

simple questions about it. And the headline is "Talking to Hillary Clinton's Hair Stylist about Work-Life Balance."

Mr. Tenpas. This is Mr. Tenpas. If we could have a moment for her to review, then we'll come back.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Mr. Tenpas. Thank you. This is Mr. Tenpas. Ms. Porter has had an opportunity to review the document.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Thank you.

BY Oversight Republican Counsel:

Q So I'm sure there are questions by all of you about who Isabelle is. And that's a great question, because the printout I provided doesn't address that question. So I have subsequently sent an email to all of you with the link to the article.

So, if you just pop open that link -- I apologize. If you look at the PDF I sent down, there's an ad at the bottom. And of course the, you know, pivotal part of the article is covered up by the ad there. Great planning on my end.

So, if you open up the link, which serves as a de facto -- I mean, it's the link. I just printed it out. The beginning of the article says, "This is not a story about Hillary Clinton's hair. Because please; she's bigger than that. It's a story about her hairstylist. Another thing entirely."

And then the next paragraph starts -- and it's cut off on the PDF I sent you by an ad. The next paragraph starts, "Isabelle Goetz, who grew up in a village near Strasbourg, France, and owns the Izzy Salon in Georgetown, has been Mrs. Clinton's stylist and cutter since 1997. Other than the occasional blowout from Santa Nikkels, who has a salon near Mrs. Clinton's Chappaqua house, Goetz is the main mane, the chief coiffeur."

And then you see how it links up again with the PDF I sent you.

So I just want to link exhibit 2 and 3 here. It appears as though the Isabelle that's being talked about between Secretary Clinton and Monica Hanley is her hairstylist. And so we have Secretary Clinton email from her private email to Monica Hanley on her official State Department email address scheduling Hillary Clinton's haircuts.

Is that an official duty of a Secretary of State, getting a haircut, or is that sort of a personal endeavor?

A I don't know.

Q You don't know. Okay.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Hey, folks, just to clarify, are you able to hear me?

Mr. Tenpas. Yes, we are. And this is Mr. Tenpas. We are able to hear from Ms. Porter's location. Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you. I was just worried about my tech. I just want to note for the record that the article that was introduced is dated July 12, 2016. Secretary Clinton was Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013. Just want to make sure that that's accurately reflected.

Oversight Republican Counsel. That's all correct. All correct.

BY Oversight Republican Counsel:

Q And the second paragraph, the article does say that Isabelle Goetz has been Mrs. Clinton's stylist and cutter since 1997. And, of course, during the time in question, 2016, former Secretary Clinton was running for President at the time and was back in the public spotlight.

We can put these exhibits aside. I want to talk about these dinner reservations that was the topic of conversation during the last hour.

It was described as, sort of, two buckets of dinner reservations -- you know, sort of the official business and the personal business. That's not how I interpreted it at all. I viewed it as two buckets of reservations; one of the buckets was the bucket where Secretary Pompeo went to dinner and had his security detail, and then the other bucket was where Secretary Pompeo went to dinner and didn't have his security detail.

Secretary Pompeo's security detail, are those DS

agents, Ms. Porter?

HFAC Dem Counsel. I'm sorry. If I could, for the record, [REDACTED], when you said that there were times when he went to dinner and didn't have his security detail, Ms. Porter was shaking her head "no." I just wanted to note that.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Yeah. That was my interpretation, as there are two buckets of reservations. My interpretation is there's a bucket where he went to dinner and had his security detail, and then there's a bucket where he went to dinner and didn't have his security detail. So those are two buckets that I've created. You created your two buckets. I'm going to create my two buckets and ask about my two buckets.

Mr. Tenpas. Okay. Well, [REDACTED], respectfully, I do not think your second bucket is consistent with her testimony.

My understanding of her testimony is that she understands that if the Secretary is going to an event, his security detail is with him. And she did not describe that there were a set of events that he goes to where his security detail is not present.

I'm happy to have you clear that up, but --

Oversight Republican Counsel. No, I think that's absolutely correct. That's how I interpreted it. I don't

think I ever ascribed her testimony to any buckets. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had his buckets; I have my buckets.

My point is simply this. This is my point. Every dinner that she made a reservation for, the Secretary showed up with his security detail.

BY Oversight Republican Counsel:

Q Is that correct?

A If it was a reservation for the Secretary, yes. He doesn't go anywhere without his detail.

Q He doesn't go anywhere without his security detail. Okay. Thank you.

It would've been a lot easier if I had just said that the first time. I didn't. So I'm sorry for all the back-and-forth, Ron and [REDACTED]. I apologize. But, yes, he doesn't go anywhere without his security detail.

His security detail, are they DS agents? Is that right?

A That's my understanding. Yes.

Q And DS agents are State Department employees, correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And how many people -- okay.

So, when he moves around, goes to dinner with his security detail, I mean, you know, that's a group of folks outside of just him. There are vehicles that are involved.

You've developed these relationships with these restaurants, and it's important to let them know, you know, everything that's about to happen when you make those reservations. Is that correct?

A Yes. I try to prepare them so that they make sure they have adequate space to accommodate the Secretary, whoever is with him, and the security detail.

Q Okay.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Thank you. That's all the questions I have right now.

And, you know, I apologize again, Ron, for my horrible way of introducing that last set of questions. Sorry about that.

Mr. Tenpas. It's fine. It seems that we've gotten it all clarified, I think, by the end. This is Mr. Tenpas.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Yeah.

I'll kick it back over to [REDACTED].

HFAC Republican Counsel. So, [REDACTED], we will yield back the balance of our time.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Okay.

Folks, would you like a short break before we wrap up? I think I'd appreciate just 5 minutes just to check in with our folks, if that's okay.

Mr. Tenpas. From our standpoint, sure. We'd like to keep it to 5 minutes. I think --

HFAC Dem Counsel. Yep. No more than that.

Mr. Tenpas. -- Ms. Porter is eager to get concluded here. Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Absolutely. And, as I said, we expect to conclude shortly. We're very appreciative of your time, ma'am.

If we can go off the record for 5 minutes, we'll be right back and we'll wrap up.

[Recess.]

Mr. Tenpas. Thank you. This is Mr. Tenpas.

During the break, there was one point that Ms. Porter realized, talking about the dinners, that she believes she probably should try to clarify before we move on from that topic. So with you all's indulgence, I suggest that she just go ahead and try to address that quickly before we get into a new line of questioning.

So, Ms. Porter?

Ms. Porter. The item I wanted to clear up is that, when we were talking about making reservations, it seemed that we were talking about making -- at the request of Susan Pompeo. I just wanted to make it clear that there were also times that the reservations were made at the request of the Secretary.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Thank you, ma'am. I appreciate that.

Did anybody ever advise you that, with respect to things that were personal in nature, that you needed to go off the clock in any way or account for your time differently than when you were doing work for Mrs. Pompeo that related to State Department business?

A I understand that personal business has to be on my own time, yes.

Q And how do you keep records of which things are personal and which things are not?

A The items that I consider to be personal, I try to do those either before or after office hours or on the weekends. Or I might note on my calendar or make a note, and if I spend an hour or 2 hours doing something, I make sure I make that up another way.

Q And if I understood you correctly, that relates to things that are personal to you, right, your own personal life. Do you similarly distinguish between things that Mrs. Pompeo asks you to do for her that are of a personal nature for her, as opposed to official business for her or the Secretary?

A I try to do that, yes.

Q Okay. And do you keep records of that?

A I do my best to keep records of it, yes.

Q Okay. And do you submit those records to your timekeeper?

A So, because my job isn't 8:00 to 5:00, I don't submit that information to a timekeeper, because I make sure that I have more than enough hours in, and I've never not worked plenty of hours in order to also address any personal time.

Q Thank you. We understand on that. And these are demanding jobs. I expect that the time you put in is probably well above the average 9:00 to 5:00.

Who, if anyone, performs some of the work that you've described regarding these personal reservations when you're on leave? Does anybody else at the State Department assist Mrs. Pompeo with things that we've defined as personal during the course of today's interview?

A Yes.

Q And who is that?

A My recollection is that Joe Semrad has often helped the Secretary and Mrs. Pompeo either when I am there or when I'm on leave.

Q Okay. Anybody else?

A Not to my recollection.

Q Okay.

Moving on, we'd just like to talk a little bit about travel issues.

Have you ever been involved in planning Mrs. Pompeo's travel?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And can you describe for us what your involvement is in planning travel for her?

A Generally, I'm not involved in it, but you asked if I've ever been involved in it. And what I -- could you clarify if you mean personal travel or official travel?

Mr. Tenpas. This is Ms. Porter's location. We are not hearing any audio from Mr. Bair right now.

Oversight Dem Counsel. This is [REDACTED] --

HFAC Dem Counsel. -- last answer from Ms. Porter. I apologize. Could we go off the record for a second? Sorry about this.

[Recess.]

HFAC Dem Counsel. Can you guys hear me okay?

Mr. Tenpas. Yes. Yes, we can.

HFAC Dem Counsel. All right. Rather than tinker with anything, I'm going to cross my fingers and assume that that holds.

So could I just ask the reporter to read back the answer?

[The reporter read back the record as requested.]

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q So let's take that piece by piece. Have you ever been involved in planning personal travel for Mrs. Pompeo?

A Not planning, no.

Q What involvement have you had in personal travel for Mrs. Pompeo?

A From time to time, when she is on personal travel, I note it because I need to communicate it with her security.

Q And is that the extent of it, just sort of acting as a liaison with the security folks?

A And ensuring that they understand it on a calendar that they have access to, yes.

Q Okay.

How about her travel when she travels with the Secretary? Have you been involved in that in any way?

A Yes.

Q Can you please describe how you're involved when Mrs. Pompeo travels with the Secretary?

A I have been involved on two trips back in 2019. And at that time, when she traveled, I helped coordinate her schedule and I staffed her while we were on the trip.

Q Okay. So when you say staffed her, that means that you traveled abroad with her, as well, for those two trips?

A I actually traveled with she and the Secretary, yes.

Q Okay. Thank you.

And just because I think this will help us to be most efficient, you said there were two trips in 2019, and that was the extent of your involvement in international travel.

Is that right?

A That's correct.

Q And do you recall where those trips were to, just so we can scope it?

A Generally, yes. One was to Brasilia and Cartagena, and the other was to a number of countries in the Middle East.

Q Okay.

So the trip to Brazil, would that be the trip that began around December 31, New Year's Eve, of 2018, so it was early 2019?

A That's my recollection, yes.

Q Okay. What was your involvement with that trip?

A It was ensuring that her calendar of the events that she was invited to attend with the Secretary, that her travel schedule recognized and indicated those, as well as events -- when he had events that did not include her, I worked with other personnel at the State Department to ensure her private actions were set up, her private interactions with embassy personnel were set up for her.

Q So I don't want to characterize. Do you recall what some of those activities would've been on that trip when she wasn't with the Secretary?

A I do. Generally, when she goes on trips with the Secretary, she meets with family members or spouses of the

Foreign Service officers and others who are stationed at the said embassy.

She also meets with security personnel to find out, kind of, what the security is at the embassy, particularly depending on what feedback she's received from the family members.

She'll also meet with the Community Liaison Office, and that's who really helps the Foreign Service officers overseas. It's the department that helps them engage in the community and schools.

And then she'll sometimes, if there's an American school or a school that most of the children at the embassy attend, she'll sometimes tour that school and learn a little bit about the experiences of the Foreign Service families.

Q Did she do anything on that trip that was more along the lines of what the rest of us would consider sightseeing or tourism while she was there?

A Which trip are you talking about?

Q So this is the trip to Brasilia that ran mostly really early 2019 but I think started on the last day of 2018.

A Right. I don't -- not to my recollection, no.

Q Okay.

Was there any portion of that trip that was for personal travel, to your recollection, things that she was

just doing on her own?

A Not that -- I mean, other than engaged with either something the Secretary was doing or what I just described as interactions with families and embassy personnel.

Q Okay. So nothing besides those two categories of things?

A Not to my recollection.

Q Okay.

And then there were two trips to a -- let me scratch that, just because I don't recall exactly. What was the second trip you said you were involved in?

A The second trip was -- it was multiple countries in the Middle East.

Q Uh-huh. And do you recall what countries any of them were? I think that will help us to -- I think there were two trips to the Middle East. So do you recall which countries it was?

A It would have been the one early in 2019. And, boy, let's see. Egypt. I believe we went to Amman, Jordan. I'm sorry. There were a number of other countries. It's been a couple of years -- well, almost 2 years ago. I don't recall.

Q Quite all right. But would it be right that this was probably in or around January of 2019 as well, close in time to the other one you just described?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And that trip took place, as I recall, during the government shutdown. Is that correct?

A That's my recollection, yes.

Q What was your involvement in that trip, please?

A Very similar to the involvement in the first -- in how I described the first trip. I worked with the trip coordinator and the Executive Secretariat to plan her trip, to ensure that her schedule -- that activities that she was going to do with the Secretary were on the calendar and then planned her own activities that, again, revolved mostly around families and schools and that sort of thing during the time that the Secretary was at events or meetings that she was not at.

Q Okay. Was the fact that that trip took place during the government shutdown something that complicated the preparation in any way?

A Not from my standpoint.

Q Okay. And was there any portion of her travel on that trip that would be purely personal, not something that she was engaged in with the Secretary or related to embassy activities?

A Not to my recollection.

Q So you don't recall for either of these trips anything that the average person would characterize as

tourism. Is that correct?

A Boy, the closest thing I would say would be tourism, but the Secretary was there too, we did go visit a new, very large Coptic cathedral and a mosque.

Q For either of these trips, are you aware of who, if anyone, made an official determination that it was in the national interest for Mrs. Pompeo to accompany the Secretary on that trip?

A I was not involved in the conversation, so I don't know.

Q Okay. No one ever asked you for a justification on that?

A They did not.

Q Did anyone ever ask you questions about why particular items in either of those trips were on Mrs. Pompeo's itinerary?

A Not to my recollection.

Q Did the inspector general ever ask you for documentation regarding Mrs. Pompeo's travel?

A No.

Q And I believe that you said you had met with the IG a couple weeks ago. Is that right?

A That's correct.

Q Did they ask you about travel-related issues?

A They may have. I don't recall that right now. It

was a fairly long interview, but I don't recall talking about travel issues.

Q Okay. Did they ask you questions similar to the things that we've explored today regarding, you know, potentially making personal reservations or carrying out what might be considered personal tasks for Mrs. Pompeo?

A Yes, I would say there's some overlap.

Q Okay.

Did you ever seek guidance regarding the delineation between what you could or could not do for Mrs. Pompeo given that you are a Federal employee?

A I will say that, when I have questions, not specifically related to Mrs. Pompeo but questions in general, I will reach out to the ethics attorney and ask a question or ask for guidance, and he's very good about getting back to me.

Q And have there ever been things that Mrs. Pompeo have asked you to do or assist with that the ethics attorney has said, you can't do that?

A I don't recall such -- I don't recall having such a conversation.

Q Okay.

Have you been involved in planning any of Secretary Pompeo's domestic travel?

A Yes.

Q Okay. What domestic travel have you been involved in planning?

A I've been involved in planning one trip.

Q And --

A And -- go ahead.

Q Sorry about that. Please tell us about that.

A I'm going to tell you. It was the one to Kansas State University.

Q And do you recall when that was?

A I believe it was in roughly September of 2019.

Q Okay. Would that have been the trip to Kansas State University where he gave a speech entitled "In Defense of the American Rights Tradition"? Does that --

A Yes.

Q -- sound familiar? Please tell us about your involvement in planning that trip.

A Okay. I was the trip coordinator for that trip, and so I worked with Kansas State University, the people who were hosting him for the Landon Lecture Series.

And then I worked inside the Department to ensure that -- like, the pieces of the Executive Secretariat that go out and do the advance, that plan the travel, that plan his mobile communications while he's traveling.

I worked with the press secretary, because while he was there, he did do some media interviews, again, all

surrounding the Landon Lecture.

Q Okay. Did you do any outreach to folks in Kansas, or was it all just coordination within the Federal bureaucracy?

A No -- yes. No, I did. I reached out to the folks at Kansas State, because they're the ones -- it was hosted at Kansas State University. And so I reached out to the -- and I don't remember her name, but it's the person with the Landon Lecture who was planning it.

And I also put them in touch with Diplomatic Security because of the number of people that would have -- well, anyway, they would've needed to know, but specifically because it was a large group in an auditorium.

Q Do you recall how Kansas State was chosen as a venue for that speech?

[Audio interruption.]

HFAC Dem Counsel. I think we're okay?

Mr. Tenpas. Yeah, this is Mr. Tenpas. I think we're back. It seemed like we had temporarily gotten some background noise, but from our standpoint it did not really interrupt the flow and discussion.

So I think the pending question relates to Ms. Porter's understanding of how that event came about, if that's a fair --

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Yes. Specifically, what can you tell us about how that venue was chosen as a speech for the Secretary of State?

A Of course. So the organization that runs the Landon Lecture, which is a longstanding lecture series, invited the Secretary to come to Kansas State. It's connected with Kansas State University. And so he was invited to come give a Landon Lecture.

Q Okay.

Were you involved at all in the Secretary's travel to Overland Park, Kansas, between March 18 and 19 of 2019 for the Global Entrepreneurship Summit?

A Could you repeat the question?

Q Sorry. That was a lot there.

A Yes.

Q There was something called the Global Entrepreneurship Summit that was hosted in Overland Park, Kansas, in March of 2019. Do you recall that?

A I do recall the event, yes.

Q Okay. Did you have any involvement with that event at all?

A I did not attend, but I was involved in some of the planning meetings.

Q Meetings with whom?

A Meetings with the Department, meetings led, to my

recollection, by the trip coordinator.

Q And I'm sorry, the trip coordinator works where? It's just not a title I'm familiar with.

A That's okay. Generally, the trip coordinator is a Deputy Executive Secretary.

Q Okay.

So how was it decided that the Secretary -- that there would be this event in March of 2019 that was hosted in Overland Park, Kansas?

A I don't know.

Q Did you talk to anyone from Kansas who had reached out and said, you know, it would be great if the Secretary would come and speak here?

A I did not. I don't recall having a conversation. That trip was planned through a different -- like, it was organized initially through a different bureau.

Q Okay. And so it's not something that you had -- was there just one meeting that you attended about that?

A One or two.

Q And do you have any recollection of what was discussed in those meetings?

A My recollection of what was discussed, I believe they invited me because of my longtime relationship with the Secretary and his preferences. And so I believe, at that point, it was early enough on that I was able to contribute

things like, would he like the format of the program? Does he want to just have a speech, or would he rather do a speech and, like, a fireside chat? And what side of the stage does he like his chair on, and what kind of microphone does he prefer? That sort of thing.

Q Okay. So --

Mr. Tenpas. [REDACTED], could I just interject here? I think Ms. Porter talked about who invited -- I'd just request a clarification.

There, you're referring to who in the State Department invited you to the planning meeting. You're not suggesting you were invited by people in Kansas to attend. Is that correct?

Ms. Porter. Oh, I am so sorry if I -- yes, by the people in the Department who had asked me to be at the planning meeting. Thank you for that clarification.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q I appreciate that clarification.

And just to make sure we're clear on the other point, do you have any knowledge of who from Kansas might have reached out and suggested that the Secretary hold this event in Overland Park?

A I don't.

Q Okay.

So, according to his public schedule, so he was there

in March; he was there in September for the Kansas State speech that we've talked about. After the Kansas State speech, he went back, according to his public schedule, to Kansas on October 24, along with Ivanka Trump.

Did you have any involvement in planning that trip?

A I did not.

Q Do you know who was involved in planning that trip?

A Again, it would have been one of the Deputy Executive Secretaries. I don't recall which one.

Q Okay. Do you recall anything noteworthy about that trip as you sit here today?

A Can you -- I just want to make sure we're talking about the same trip. Can you --

Q So this is October 24 of 2019 with Ms. Trump.

A I mean, my recollection is that it was notable because Ivanka Trump went to Wichita with the Secretary.

Q So the main reason it sticks out was simply her presence on the trip, not anything else?

A And they were -- yes, and that it was being held at Wichita State University.

Q And how did it come to be that the Secretary and the President's daughter were going to an event at Wichita State University?

A I don't know.

Q So, regarding that trip, The Wall Street Journal

reported that the Secretary had a side meeting with Charles Koch when he was on that trip. Do you recall that, either the reporting of the fact or the meeting?

A I wasn't on the trip, and I wasn't aware of that meeting, yes, until reports.

Q Okay. Do you recall reading the report at the time?

A I don't recall when I might have read the report.

Q Okay.

The State Department explicitly declined to comment to The Wall Street Journal regarding why the Secretary was meeting with Mr. Koch. Do you have any insight into why they declined to comment?

A I don't have any insight, no.

Q Okay.

From November of 2018 to December of 2019, a quick search of the State Department's website shows that Secretary Pompeo made more than 30 appearances on local media in the State of Kansas.

Were you involved in any way in helping to arrange media appearances for him in Kansas?

A No, with the exception that I did work with the press secretary when I was the trip coordinator for the Kansas State University trip. And my involvement there was just ensuring that they had space to have the interviews in.

Q So that would've just been as part of your normal

duties for that one trip that we've discussed your involvement in.

A Correct.

Q Okay.

In December of 2019, during a trip to London, it's been reported that the Secretary had another event that wasn't on his public schedule with the Hamilton Society, where he met with a small group of wealthy Republican political donors.

Did you have anything to do with planning that trip to London in December of 2019?

A I did not.

Q Do you have any knowledge of this side meeting with donors during that trip to London?

A I do not, other than I believe I read about it in a media report.

Q Okay. But you have no personal knowledge of it?

A No personal knowledge, no.

Q Okay.

The next month, on a trip to Florida in January of 2020, the Secretary had another off-the-books meeting when he was on official travel. This one was at a housing development reportedly called The Villages, where local media report that he met with members of the Morse family, also large Republican donors.

Did you have any involvement in planning the

Secretary's trip to Florida in January of 2020?

A No.

Q Do you have any knowledge about any side trip to meet with Republican donors during that trip?

A No.

Q Okay.

A Not to my recollection.

Q And are you aware of whether or not Secretary Pompeo had any other meetings with political donors during voyages that began as official travel, whether on his own time or not? But went overseas for official purposes, went domestically for official purposes, and at some point met with political donors, are you aware of any other instances of that?

A I am not aware of any other instances, with the exception that I seem to remember at least reading stories where that was the topic of the news story.

Q Okay.

And I think my colleague may have touched on some of this while I was unfortunately offline, but there was speculation for a considerable period of time that Secretary Pompeo might run for the Senate in the State of Kansas. Do you recall that?

A I recall the speculation, again, based on what I read in the media.

Q Did you ever have conversations with him about whether or not he was going to run for the Senate?

A I did not.

Q Did you ever have conversations with Mrs. Pompeo about whether she was going to run for -- whether he was going to run for the Senate?

A Not to my recollection, no.

Q Okay.

And did anybody ever voice concern, either to you or in your presence, about the amount of travel that he was doing to Kansas in light of those conversations about whether he would run?

A Not to my recollection.

Q Okay.

And then just the same question on that, and we're just about done. Did anybody similarly raise any questions or concerns about the amount of local media he was doing in Kansas in light of the fact that there was this speculation about whether he was going to run for the Senate?

A And just so I -- can you just -- I'm not quite sure what the -- if you could make that -- ask that again.

Q That was long-winded, and I apologize.

A I just want to make sure I answer you correctly.

Q No, that's completely fair. So we had discussed, and I think you said you were involved in it, the fact that

he did a lot of local media in Kansas for a period of time. Did anybody, either to you or in your presence, express concern about the amount of media that he was doing in Kansas, given the rumors that he was going to run for the Senate in Kansas?

A No, not to my recollection.

Q Okay.

Just to recap, when did you first become aware that the inspector general was looking into anything that might've had to do with your activities?

Mr. Tenpas. I'm sorry. As to whose activities?

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q With your activities, ma'am. Like, any of your -- that they may have wished to speak to you, not that they were investigating you, but that things they were looking at might have required you or led them to ask you to speak with them.

A Yes. The best of my recollection, it would've roughly been the end of May or the first of June.

Q Okay.

Mr. Linick, when he was here, testified that he had reached out to folks on the seventh floor in late 2019 so that they wouldn't be "surprised," was his term, that there was some work being done by the IG regarding the Pompeos' use of resources.

Did anybody in late 2019 ever mention anything to you about the inspector general looking at those issues?

A No. I have no recollection of that.

Q Okay.

And then the last thing from me, because I think you've talked about this. You said that you've known Mrs. Pompeo since, I think, the early 1990s, that you met Mr. Pompeo in the context of his congressional career. Do you see the Pompeos socially?

A No, not regularly. So, no, I don't see them socially.

Q Okay.

A I have attended one event at their house, but I wouldn't consider it a social.

Q Okay.

How about Counselor Brechbuhl? Do you see him or anyone close to him socially?

A I have. The closest thing I would say was social with the Counselor is, when his wife was in town a couple Christmases ago, she invited me to join her for brunch.

Q Okay.

And how about Under Secretary Bulatao? Do you have any social connections with him or anyone close to him?

A Again, the only social connection would be that his fiancée, [REDACTED], is a friend, and from time to time we

have dinner, but just the two of us.

Q Okay. And how long have you known [REDACTED]

State Department Counsel. [REDACTED], this is [REDACTED].

I would ask that Under Secretary Bulatao's fiancée, unless otherwise reported, be respected as a privacy matter in this.

HFAC Dem Counsel. I have no initial objection to that, so we're happy to talk about that during the course of the errata review.

State Department Counsel. Thanks, [REDACTED].

Mr. Tenpas. And, [REDACTED], if I could have one moment with Ms. Porter. Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Sure thing.

[Discussion off the record.]

[3:04 p.m.]

Mr. Tenpas. Thank you. I think there's again one point that she may want to elaborate on slightly in connection with one of your prior questions.

So, Ms. Porter.

Ms. Porter. You had asked if I had seen the Pompeos socially, and I, in my mind, I was thinking more formal, planned types of occasions.

While I don't do that with them -- I mean, they're very busy -- there are times that we might have, you know, just quick little get-togethers. For example, at Christmas I have been at their home for a small gift exchange that included cookies and other baked goods.

So I just wanted to make it clear that I have and do see them, not a lot, but from time to time, outside of work.

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q Thank you. I appreciate that.

And really just have one more question and then I'll turn to my colleagues to see if they have anything further and we'll wrap up.

Have you ever been asked to do anything at the State Department that has made you uncomfortable, whether ethically or otherwise?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell me what that is?

A On one occasion -- I'm sorry, on two occasions I assisted with personal Christmas cards.

Q For whom?

A For the Pompeos.

Q And why did that make you uncomfortable?

A Because I was at the State Department.

Q Did you talk to anybody about that?

Mr. Tenpas. I think --

BY HFAC Dem Counsel:

Q I'm sorry. Did you talk to anybody at State about that?

A Can you be more specific?

Q Did you indicate to anyone at the State Department that you had been asked to help with personal Christmas cards and that you were uncomfortable with it?

A I did not.

Q Okay. And then just a related question. Has anyone ever voiced to you that they felt that they were uncomfortable or that they felt there might be an ethical question around some of the things that you were doing at the State Department?

A I have no recollection of that, no.

Q Okay. That's all I have on that for questions.

I'd just like to turn it to my Republican colleagues to see if they have anything, and then we've just got just some

brief closing remarks and we'll be done.

A Thank you.

BY HFAC Republican Counsel:

Q Hi, Ms. Porter. This is [REDACTED].

A Hello.

Q You can hear me okay?

A I can, yes.

Q On the question of Christmas cards, you had said previously that if you had concerns or questions about any type of ethical gray area that you would contact the ethics attorney. Is that correct?

A Yes, I did. That was my testimony.

Q And so when you felt uncomfortable about the Christmas cards, did you contact the ethics attorney in that instance?

A I didn't because it -- it was a -- no, I didn't.

Q Why did you not?

A It was a real-time sort of activity and there was not time to contact the ethics attorney.

Q Okay. Did you ever do so after the fact?

A Not to my recollection.

HFAC Republican Counsel. Okay. Thank you. That's all the questions I have.

[REDACTED], do you have any questions?

Oversight Republican Counsel. Thanks, [REDACTED].

A couple of things here. I'd like to read a letter. I can introduce it, but I'm just going to read the first paragraph of the letter.

The letter is dated January 21st, 2020, and it's a letter to Secretary Pompeo, and the letter is from the Chief of the Hatch Act Unit at the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, Ana Galindo-Marrone. And the first paragraph of the letter says:

"Dear Secretary Pompeo: This letter concerns a complaint the U.S. Office of Special Counsel received alleging that you are violating the Hatch Act by taking preliminary steps toward becoming a candidate in the 2020 Senate election in Kansas. I've explained below, OSC has no evidence to conclude that you violated the Hatch Act. Therefore, we are closing this matter without further action."

I just wanted to read that into the record.

And, secondly, Ms. Porter, I want to do -- I need to get you on my screen here. Well, it is what it is.

I wanted to apologize. I made an omission earlier. I was talking about this investigation and how it's all unfolded what I perceive to be sort of sexist attacks against you and Ms. Kenna, dragging you up here, threatening you with subpoenas, and dragging your name through the mud publicly.

Mr. Bulatao, Marik String, Clarke Cooper, some other individuals, they have all been offered by the State Department to come up and give testimony, and the Democrats have rejected that. They're all men. You and Ms. Kenna are women.

And the omission I made was leaving out Mrs. Pompeo, and that's what's happening here. She's a strong woman who's supportive of her husband's career. She is a real asset to the Department. That is clearly shown in David Ignatius' op-ed, which we read earlier, where he talked about the things that she had done during the dinner he attended. And this is somebody who's been very critical of the Secretary. You know, there's no "there" there.

And during the last half hour you were asked about Mrs. Pompeo's travel and Mrs. Pompeo accompanying the Secretary. And I wrote down that during her travel, when she's not with the Secretary, she generally meets with family members and spouses. Is that correct?

Ms. Porter. That's my understanding.

Oversight Republican Counsel. Yeah. And the CLOs, the Community Liaison Offices, I wrote down. On top of formal invitations that she has received from foreign dignitaries, these are side activities that she does, talking with families overseas.

And I was a trailing spouse. My wife was in the

foreign service. I was in a foreign country. The folks there, quite frankly, weren't very friendly. I was surprised that they weren't very friendly. Spoke several different languages. I couldn't find a job. I was home alone with two kids.

When we moved, my son was 5 months, my daughter was almost 3 when we moved. My wife was working full time at the mission. And she was, you know, she was out all hours of the day, and I'm home with two kids.

And during our first 2 months overseas, Secretary Kerry visited four times. Four times he visited. I remember the very first trip he visited, my wife got called into work between 10 o'clock on a Friday night and 2 a.m. on a Saturday morning, and her job was to sit on the tarmac, watch the Secretary's bags come off the plane, follow them in the car, go in the car, walk the bags to the hotel and make sure that they arrived at his room. And that was her first task during Secretary Kerry's first trip.

I'm home with the kids after a long week. It's a Friday night. You know, it's hard. I felt very alone.

And you know what would have been nice? You know what would have been nice? If Mrs. Kerry had come just once with Mr. Kerry. It would have been nice for her to meet some of the family members at the mission. It would have been nice if she asked how we were doing. It would have been nice if

she had given us some encouragement and letting us know that our contributions as trailing spouses were equally as important as the work that the foreign service officers were doing. It would have made me feel like part of the team.

I felt very alone. And I did not get that from Mrs. Kerry. His four times there in the first 2 months we arrived she didn't come with him once, and it would have been great to have that type of support.

So, you know, it's easy to sit there behind a computer screen and sort of lob bombs at somebody without having any real understanding of the positive impact that they're having on people's lives overseas, and until they've experienced it, they just have no idea what it's like.

You know, it's hard to understand what value it brings to the table without having experienced it firsthand. And, you know, it's disappointing we're using the awesome subpoena authority of the U.S. Congress to viciously attack people, attack women, bring them to tears in some instances, and all in the pursuit of what? Some conspiracy theory that doesn't have an ounce of evidence to support it. And that's been shown time and again through these interviews.

Thank you for indulging me. I just wanted to speak on a personal note for a minute. Thank you very much for volunteering. Thanks for coming in. And, you know, I hope you can put this sad ordeal behind you now and move on with

your life.

Thank you.

Ms. Porter. Thank you.

HFAC Republican Counsel. And, [REDACTED], we will yield back the balance of our time.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Thank you. I appreciate it.

Ms. Porter, I wanted to extend my personal thanks to you for coming in. I really appreciate your time and how forthright you've been.

I'd like to turn it over briefly to my colleague, [REDACTED], who just has a few concluding remarks, and then we're done.

HFAC Dem Staff. Thank you, [REDACTED].

Can everybody hear me? Can folks hear me?

Mr. Tenpas. Yes, we can. I'm sorry, this is Mr. Tenpas. We can hear you from Ms. Porter's location.

HFAC Dem Staff. Great. Thank you. I haven't been speaking earlier, so I just wanted to make sure the audio was still working.

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm the senior professional staff member for State Department Oversight and Operations on the House Foreign Affairs Committee majority staff. And before we close, I just have been asked to read into the record the following on behalf of Chairman Engel.

So, quote: "Last night the Department informed my

office that it was canceling key staff-level briefings this week, explicitly tying that action to the Committee's probe into the firing of former State Department Inspector General Steve Linick.

"To be clear, these briefings had nothing to do with ongoing oversight requests, but were related to a range of concerns that bear on U.S. security and leadership around the world.

"One was about counterterrorism efforts in the Sahel, particularly on Mali's security forces, which coincidentally are mutinying today; one was about the Islamic State's recent takeover of a port in Mozambique near a massive American investment; and one was about the closure of our consulate in Chengdu, China.

"The Department has indicated it will reschedule these briefings based on a reply to the Secretary's August 7 communications regarding this and other ongoing Committee investigations.

"While I look forward to any opportunity for good faith dialogue with the Department on the Committee's oversight, I reject -- and regret -- the Department's efforts to cancel unrelated briefing requests of national security importance because it disagrees with how I am conducting this investigation. I abide by the Constitution's separation of powers and refuse to allow the State Department to dictate

how the Committee on Foreign Affairs conducts oversight."

Ms. Porter, I would also like to put -- end quote, from Chairman Engel.

Ms. Porter, I would also like to clarify for the record today that of the four individuals who have provided voluntary testimony thus far in this investigation into the firing of IG Linick, that would be Mr. Linick himself, Mr. Charles Faulkner, Ms. Lisa Kenna, and yourself, that obviously two of these four are women.

I will just say on a personal note that I am gratified and deeply grateful for the effort of you, Ms. Kenna, and other women who have sought to respectfully and patriotically comply with congressional oversight, including this investigation.

So with that, Ms. Porter, also on behalf of the chairman, and to echo what other colleagues have expressed today, we very much appreciate your time, your willingness to appear here voluntary, and your effort to answer questions today from both sides in a forthright manner.

Thank you very much for all of this, and we wish you all the best and a great remainder of your day. Thank you.

Ms. Porter. Thank you.

HFAC Dem Counsel. Unless anyone has anything further?

Thank you again, ma'am, to you and to your counsel, thank you to our State Department colleagues for joining us

today. We are adjourned.

Go off the record, please.

[Whereupon, at 3:20 p.m., the interview was concluded.]