

IRAN-CONTRA COVER-UP KING DOESN'T ADDRESS SESSIONS' OTHER LIES, OR CONSPIRACY-IN-CHIEF

Fresh off several witnesses revealing that Jeff Sessions wasn't as offended by George Papadopoulos' plan to pitch meetings with Putin as he claims he was, ABC reported that, Andrew McCabe approved an investigation into whether Jeff Sessions lied to Congress about his ties with Russia.

Nearly a year before Attorney General Jeff Sessions fired senior FBI official Andrew McCabe for what Sessions called a "lack of candor," McCabe oversaw a federal criminal investigation into whether Sessions lacked candor when testifying before Congress about contacts with Russian operatives, sources familiar with the matter told ABC News.

An anonymous source tried to claim that Sessions would not have known that McCabe briefly oversaw an investigation into Sessions' own perjury, but Sessions' lawyer pointedly refused to confirm that.

One source told ABC News that Sessions was not aware of the investigation when he decided to fire McCabe last Friday less than 48 hours before McCabe, a former FBI deputy director, was due to retire from government and obtain a full pension, but an attorney representing Sessions declined to confirm that.

Sessions' lawyer is Chuck Cooper. Most recently, he got famous failing spectacularly to defend

Prop 8. But years and years ago, he played a key role in excusing Iran-Contra, notably by inventing the concept of pixie dusting executive orders.

Given his past as a great cover-up artist, take note of how carefully he words his more general denial.

Two months ago, Sessions was interviewed by Mueller's team, and the federal inquiry related to his candor during his confirmation process has since been shuttered, according to a lawyer representing Sessions.

"The Special Counsel's office has informed me that after interviewing the attorney general and conducting additional investigation, the attorney general is not under investigation for false statements or perjury in his confirmation hearing testimony and related written submissions to Congress," attorney Chuck Cooper told ABC News on Wednesday.

The AG is not under investigation for any lies in his *confirmation hearing testimony*, Cooper said.

Here's what that leaves out:

- Obstruction charges for inventing the reason to fire Comey, pretending to be involved in the firing of US Attorneys including Preet Bharara, and for firing McCabe
- False statements charges tied to Sessions' later testimony before Congress
- False statements charges tied to his Mueller

testimony about whether he opposed the Russian outreach (we now know Mueller has gotten conflicting statements on this point)

- Implication in the Russian conspiracy directly

It's the last one that is most interesting (and where all these false statements charges are headed anyway). We now know some of the people at the March 31, 2016 meeting believe Sessions was not opposed to the Russian outreach. We know that Sessions' close aide, Stephen Miller, was in the thick of things.

And then there's this bizarre exchange from a November exchange with Patrick Leahy (who seems to have known that Sessions was then under investigation for lying to Congress).

Leahy asked about each item in turn.

Leahy: Let's take this piece by piece. Did you discuss any of the following: Emails?

Sessions: Repeat the question again about emails.

Leahy: Since the 2016 campaign, have you discussed with any Russian connected official anything about emails?

Sessions: Discuss with them. I don't recall having done any such thing.

Right after this exchange, Sessions totally balks when Leahy asks him if he has been interviewed or asked for an interview by Mueller, saying he should clear it with the Special Counsel.

Now, there was some imprecision in this questioning. It's clear that Sessions

believed he was answering the question about during the campaign, not since it.

But of the things Leahy asked about – emails, Russian interference, sanctions, or any policies or positions of the Trump campaign or presidency – Sessions ultimately not-recalled in response to just one question: the emails.

Based on the past practice Leahy had just laid out, Sessions claimed to not recall issues that he had actually done. Which would suggest Sessions is worried that there's evidence he has discussed emails – with someone. It's just not clear how he interpreted that question.

Sessions refused to deny he had discussed emails with a "Russian connected official" *since the election*.

None of these potential ties in the conspiracy are included in Cooper's carefully worded denial (nor is Sessions' knowing that McCabe had okayed an investigation into him for failing to meet his duty of candor, the same thing Sessions just fired McCabe for).

That speaks volumes.

In any case, it seems we'll be hearing a lot more about Sessions' implication in all this, in the wake of his firing of McCabe.