

IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS: BIG, BUSY WEEK AHEAD [UPDATE-1]

[NB: Updates will appear at the bottom of this post. /~Rayne]

Better get all your big tasks done today or hold off until Friday because the week is stacked with hearings and witnesses. These are the folks scheduled to testify before the House Intelligence Committee (HIC):

Tuesday 19-NOV-2019

Jennifer Williams, Special Adviser on EU+Russia to VP Mike Pence (heard the July 25 phone call)
Alexander Vindman, former National Security Council Director for European affairs (heard the July 25 phone call)
Kurt Volker, Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations
Timothy Morrison, Presidential Adviser for Europe and Russia on the National Security Council staff (heard the July 25 phone call)

Wednesday 20-NOV-2019

Gordon Sondland, Ambassador to the EU
Laura Cooper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russian, Ukrainian, and Eurasian affairs
David Maclain Hale, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

Thursday 21-NOV-2019

Fiona Hill, former Deputy Assistant to the President and National Security Council's Senior Director for Europe and Russia
NEW -> David Holmes, Counselor for Political Affairs in Ukraine [Added with UPDATE-1]

You're going to want to bone up ahead of these hearings with the transcripts released so far:

Jennifer Williams's transcript
Alexander Vindman's transcript
Kurt Volker's transcript
Timothy Morrison's transcript

Gordon Sondland's transcript (includes addendum from November 4)
Laura Cooper's transcript

Fiona Hill's transcript

Note the witnesses who listened in on the Trump-Zelensky call; the concentration of call observers/participants might explain why Trump has no public appearances scheduled on his calendar tomorrow. Note also I don't have a transcript yet for David Hale; I'll furnish a link as soon as I find one, assuming it's been or will be released.

And do note also two of three witnesses whose depositions Matt Gaetz and other House GOP tried to barge in on are scheduled to testify this week – that's Fiona Hill and Laura Cooper.

I wouldn't be at all surprised to see the GOP members of the HIC do something obnoxious and obstructive to these same witnesses again; my suspicion is that they offer particularly damning testimony.

And they're both women. Great optics, that, all those suited-up white dudes (except for jacketless Gym Jordan) storming around and barging into closed-door SCIF depositions to intimidate women employees of our federal government.

For the same reason the GOP deployed her against former Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, we shouldn't be surprised if the GOP tasks Elise Stefanik with a substantive portion of their questions to these two and the other female witnesses. It'll be like siccing a lipsticked pitbull on them; can't wait to see this because Stefanik's performance this past week helped her Democratic

opponent garner +225,000 new followers on Twitter and a million dollars in campaign donations.

(Really effective program the GOP has in place to increase the number of female GOP representatives in Congress. LOL)

Get reading, get ready.

UPDATE-1 – 10:10 P.M. ET –

Transcript for David Maclain Hale's deposition has been released – link here. Hale is the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and at present the highest-ranked serving foreign service officer.

HIC has also announced that David Holmes, counselor for political affairs in Ukraine, will testify on Thursday along with Fiona Hill. A transcript of his deposition taken in a closed door session last Friday has been released and it's colorful (a euphemism referring to its candid language). Holmes' deposition has 'shaken' GOP members, it's said.

Thanks to community member harpie for the assist with the transcripts.

Thursday's after-hours cocktail will need a much bigger glass.