

“FOOL’S GOLD:” THE POLLS SHARED WITH KONSTANTIN KILIMNIK INTEGRATED TONY FABRIZIO’S POLLING WITH CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA’S

The parties are releasing less redacted versions of filings related to Paul Manafort’s breach determination. Virtually all reveal things I covered closely in real time.

One thing that’s new – and newsworthy – is a passage of Rick Gates’ February 7, 2018 proffer in which he describes how he came to integrate Tony Fabrizio’s polling with Cambridge Analytica and Data Trust.

Gates brought ██████ to New York so he could integrate with ██████ and Cambridge Analytica’s polling teams. ██████ worked for Cambridge Analytica and was brought in to represent their polling product.

██████ polls targeted specific demographics in certain states and were issue specific. Generally, they dealt with issues which were important to women voters. ██████ was able to identify key words which resonated with female voters and then use these words in speeches.

Cambridge Analytica did a more comprehensive online poll. They claimed to be able to do “psychological polling”. Gates did not know if psychological polling worked.

This means that the polling data that would have been shared with Kilimnik involved a polling company that he was working with Sam Patten on, on top of the Fabrizio polling he had worked with for years with Paul Manafort.

As it happens I’m working on some other Cambridge Analytica issues that make this more interesting.

The same proffer also notes that the campaign decided to focus on Pennsylvania in mid-August (even though Manafort reportedly raised it with Kilimnik in their August 2, 2016 meeting), and that at that point, “Pennsylvania ... was ‘fool’s gold’ and Trump was unlikely to win there.”

Which would suggest that Kilimnik “knew” that the Trump campaign was going to win Pennsylvania before the campaign itself.

Update: I see I wrote this too quickly and need to clarify two things. First, when I say that Kilimnik “knew” the campaign was going to win Pennsylvania before the campaign itself, I’m referencing the report in the Mueller Report that at this August 2 briefing, Manafort included PA among the states that he believed the campaign would win. Per Gates’ explanation, that was at a time when the campaign believed they couldn’t win PA.

As for the CA claim, it is both contrary to a lot of claims made by other witnesses to Mueller, and probably early enough to present all sorts of legal problems for Trump.