

# IMPEACHMENT: WEEK SEVEN

## RECAP, Part 1

Following the House impeachment vote on December 18 Congress went on break and really very little of substance has happened. So this seemed to be a good time to try and organize some of what's happened in just the last five months. This week, we'll look at the two months that led up to the House impeachment inquiry.

### JULY 26

Kurt Volker, US special rep for Ukraine, Gordon Sondland, US ambassador to the EU, Amb. William Taylor, and embassy staffer David Holmes, meet with Zelensky and others in Ukraine. Zelensky says Trump raised "sensitive issues" "three times" in the prior day's call. [And asks about a White House visit and Oval Office meeting](#)

Later that day, the infamous phone call between Sondland and the president in the restaurant takes place. [Watch Holmes testimony on the call.](#)

### AUGUST 26



IGIC Michael Atkinson informs the acting director of National Intelligence about the complaint. He says he believes the conversation could be a campaign finance crime.

### SEPTEMBER 11

Ukraine aid is released.



### SEPTEMBER 25

The Whistleblower complaint is sent to Congress.

The Office of Legal Counsel says the whistleblower complaint should not have been sent to Congress because it does not involve an "urgent concern."

The OLC also opined that the Intelligence Community IG did not have standing to intervene because the president is not an intelligence employee.

On October 22, 70 IGs write a letter blasting DOJ/OLC conclusion that the whistleblower complaint did not need to be turned over to Congress. The writers, including Michael Horowitz (DOG IG), say the OLC opinion threatens to "undermine the critical role whistleblowers play in coming forward to report waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct across the federal government."

### JULY 25

President Trump and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky have a second phone call. During the call, the president asked Ukraine to investigate the Bidens.



### AUGUST 12

The whistleblower sends their report to the US intelligence community's inspector general.

### AUGUST 28

Politico reports Ukraine aid is being withheld.

### SEPTEMBER 9

Atkinson notifies Adam Schiff and other Congressional leaders of the whistleblower complaint.

On the same day, [three House committees launch investigations](#) into "reported efforts by President Trump, the President's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, and possibly others to pressure the government of Ukraine to assist the President's reelection campaign."

Also on that same day, Trump tells Sondland what he wants from Ukraine. [Later, Sondland testifies that Trump said: 'I want nothing. I want nothing. I want no quid pro quo. Tell Zelensky to do the right thing,'"](#)

### SEPTEMBER 24

Speaker Pelosi announces the House will move ahead with a formal impeachment inquiry.



### SEPTEMBER 26

The White House releases a declassified and redacted memorandum ("memcom" in government-speak) of the president's call with Zelensky. There is no mention of "corruption" but there are several mentions of Hunter Biden, Joe Biden, and the DNC server.

### SENATE SPLIT?



Seems like Mitch McConnell may have revealed a chink in the Senate's armor. Lisa Murkowski

of Alaska became the first Senator to question the lock-step approach being planned for the Senate trial. What remains is to see if any others will find their conscience and recall their oath and follow in her footsteps.

### NOT SO SUPREME



Justice Roberts "has devoted his whole career to trying to keep the Supreme Court from being seen as a partisan body." That's Noah Feldman writing for Bloomberg. Well, Mr. Chief Justice, the next few months will surely test your mettle!

### THE LAST WORD

... goes to Germany where a poll commissioned by the national news agency finds Donald Trump to be the greatest threat to world peace.

Here are their rankings.

