

Ambassador Bill Taylor

1. Unlike Amb. Kurt Volker, Amb. Taylor is not an expert fact witness and did not have firsthand knowledge regarding the key events in question.

- Ambassador Taylor was not present for the May 23rd, 2019 inauguration delegation meeting at the White House.
- Ambassador Taylor did not participate in the July 10th, 2019, White House meeting between Alex Danylyuk, Andrey Yermak, Secretary Perry, former National Security Advisor John Bolton, and Ambassadors Volker and Sondland.
- Ambassador Taylor was not on the July 25th call and did not receive a readout of the call until the transcript was publicly released on September 25th.

2. Amb. Taylor did not have any direct communications with President Trump, Mr. Rudy Giuliani, or Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney during the time period relating to the Democrats' partisan impeachment "inquiry."

Q. But for times relevant, May 28th on, you've never spoken to Mr. Giuliani?

A. No, no.

Q. Has anyone ever asked you to speak to Mr. Giuliani?

A. No.

Q. And if I may, have you spoken to the President of the United States?

A. I have not.

Q. Okay. You had no communications with the President of the United States?

A. Correct.

Q. Have you had any communications with Acting Chief of Staff Mulvaney?

A. None. [p. 107-108]

3. Amb. Taylor agreed to take over the lead diplomat position at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv following a May 28th, 2019, meeting with Secretary Pompeo. During that meeting, Amb. Taylor noted that Secretary Pompeo supported strong U.S. policy efforts in Ukraine and made no reference to Mr. Giuliani.

Q. And what did Secretary Pompeo say in response to your expression of these concerns?

A. He said that he supported the strong U.S. policy and that he would continue to support that strong U.S. policy, and that he would make this case to President Trump.

Q. What, if anything, did he say about the snake pit in Washington that you described?

A. He said that I should, as the Ambassador, as the Charge out there, that I should follow the guidance and pursue the foreign policy of the U.S. – of the administration, of the government, well established. And he said, and that policy is strong support, economic support, military support, political support,

Democratic support and – and that he would do his best to keep that strong support.

Q. Did he in any way mention Mr. Giuliani?

A. He didn't. [pp. 55-56]

4. Amb. Taylor testified that, according to him, the Ukrainians were unaware of a hold on assistance until August 29th.

Q. Okay. So, based on your knowledge, nobody in the Ukrainian government became aware of a hold on military aid until 2 days later, on August 29th.

A. That's my understanding.

Q. That's your understanding. And that would have been well over a month after the July 25th call between President Trump and President Zelensky.

A. Correct.

Q. So you're not a lawyer, are you, Ambassador Taylor?

A. I am not.

Q. Okay. So the idea of a quid pro quo is it's a concept where there is a demand for action or an attempt to influence action in exchange for something else. And in this case, when people are talking about a quid pro quo, that something else is military aid. So, if nobody in the Ukrainian government is aware of a military hold at the time of the Trump-Zelensky call, then, as a matter of law and as a matter of fact, there can be no quid pro quo, based on military aid. I just want to be real clear that, again, as of July 25th, you have no knowledge of a quid pro quo involving military aid.

A: July 25th is a week after the hold was put on the security assistance. And July 25th, they had a conversation between the two Presidents, where it was not discussed.

Q. And to your knowledge, nobody in the Ukrainian government was aware of the hold?

A. That is correct. [pp. 119-120]

5. Amb. Taylor testified that security assistance under the Trump Administration resulted in a “substantial” improvement in U.S.-Ukrainian relations compared to the Obama Administration. He stated, “There was a very strong political message that said the Americans are willing to provide more than blankets.”

Q: But the Trump administration had a package of aid to the Ukraine ~

A: Yes.

Q: -- including lethal defensive weapons --

A: Yes.

Q: -- financial assistance—

A: I was very happy about that.

Q: Okay.

A. Yes.

Q: And that was an improvement of years prior?

A: It was.

Q: Was it a substantial improvement?

A: It was a substantial improvement, in that this administration provided Javelin antitank weapons. These are defensive weapons, and they deter, and I believe successfully deter, Russians from trying to grab more territory, to push forward any further tank attack, number one. So there was a military capability. There was also a very strong political message that said that the Americans are willing to provide more than blankets. I mean, that was the previous. And these weapons are serious weapons. They will kill Russian tanks. So these were serious weapons. It was a demonstration that we support Ukraine.

Q: Uh-huh. And "the Americans are willing to provide more than blankets," was that a characterization of the aid in the prior administration?

A: The prior administration had been willing to give aid, but "blankets" was just kind of the more derogatory version of it, but it was nonlethal weapons. [pp. 155-156]

6. While the Democrats wish to ignore the real challenges posed by Ukrainian oligarchs and the corruption they enable, Amb. Taylor testified that combating corruption is "constant theme" in U.S.'s posture towards Ukraine and emphasized it is a "big issue."

Q: And what you can you tell us about other oligarchs that might allegedly be involved with corruption in Ukraine?

A: A general question, okay.

Q: Is it an issue?

A: It's a big issue. It's a big issue. And it's particularly a big issue today with this new administration. The one problem, the one concern, the one issue we have, the U.S. government and the international community more broadly, with this administration, with the Zelensky administration, is the influence of oligarchs. Now, the influence of one particular oligarch over Mr. Zelensky is of particular concern, and that's this fellow Kolomoisky, so—and Kolomoisky has growing influence. And this is one of the concerns that I have expressed to President Zelensky and his team on several occasions very explicitly, saying that, you know, Mr. President, Kolomoisky was not elected. You were elected and he, Mr. Kolomoisky, is increasing his influence in your government, which could cause you to fail. So I've had that conversation with him a couple times.

Q: And you're aware from -- at various points in time some these oligarchs, some of these companies have been under investigation?

A: Yes.

Q: For various reasons?

A: Yes.

Q: We understand Burisma, from additional witness testimony, has been -- either Burisma or Zlochevsky has been under investigation for money laundering, for tax evasion, among other things. And you're familiar with that generally?

A: I am familiar with that generally.

Q: What can you say about the integrity of the criminal justice system in Ukraine?

A: Flawed.

Q: So is it fair to say that if some of these companies, some of these oligarchs had been under investigation at some point in time that the investigation may have been closed for improper purposes.

A. Yes. It could have been closed for payments, yes.

Q: So, inherently, the interest of somebody in the United States of wanting to – wanting Ukraine to get to the bottom of corruption is not a problem, right?

A: We have long made it, over – certainly while I was there in 2006-2009 and subsequently, have long made it clear to the Ukrainian Governments over time that their ability to integrate into Europe and succeed in that goal was challenged by, was threatened by, a lack of credible rule of law, which included courts, investigations. So yes, that's been a constant theme of U.S. policy toward Ukraine. [pp. 86-88]

7. Amb. Taylor testified that he has known Amb. Volker—the key expert fact witness in the Democrats' partisan “impeachment inquiry”—for two decades and that he is a man of integrity.

Q: How long have you known Ambassador Volker for?

A: So probably 20 years. A long time.

Q: And is he a man of integrity?

A: He is a man of integrity. [p. 110]

8. Amb. Taylor did not seek out information to further his understanding of the allegations involving the 2016 election before arriving to the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

Q. Just forgive me. If there was a concern about the 2016 election and concern about investigations, did you ever try to do some due diligence and find out exactly what the concerns were before you arrived at post?

A. No. [p. 103]