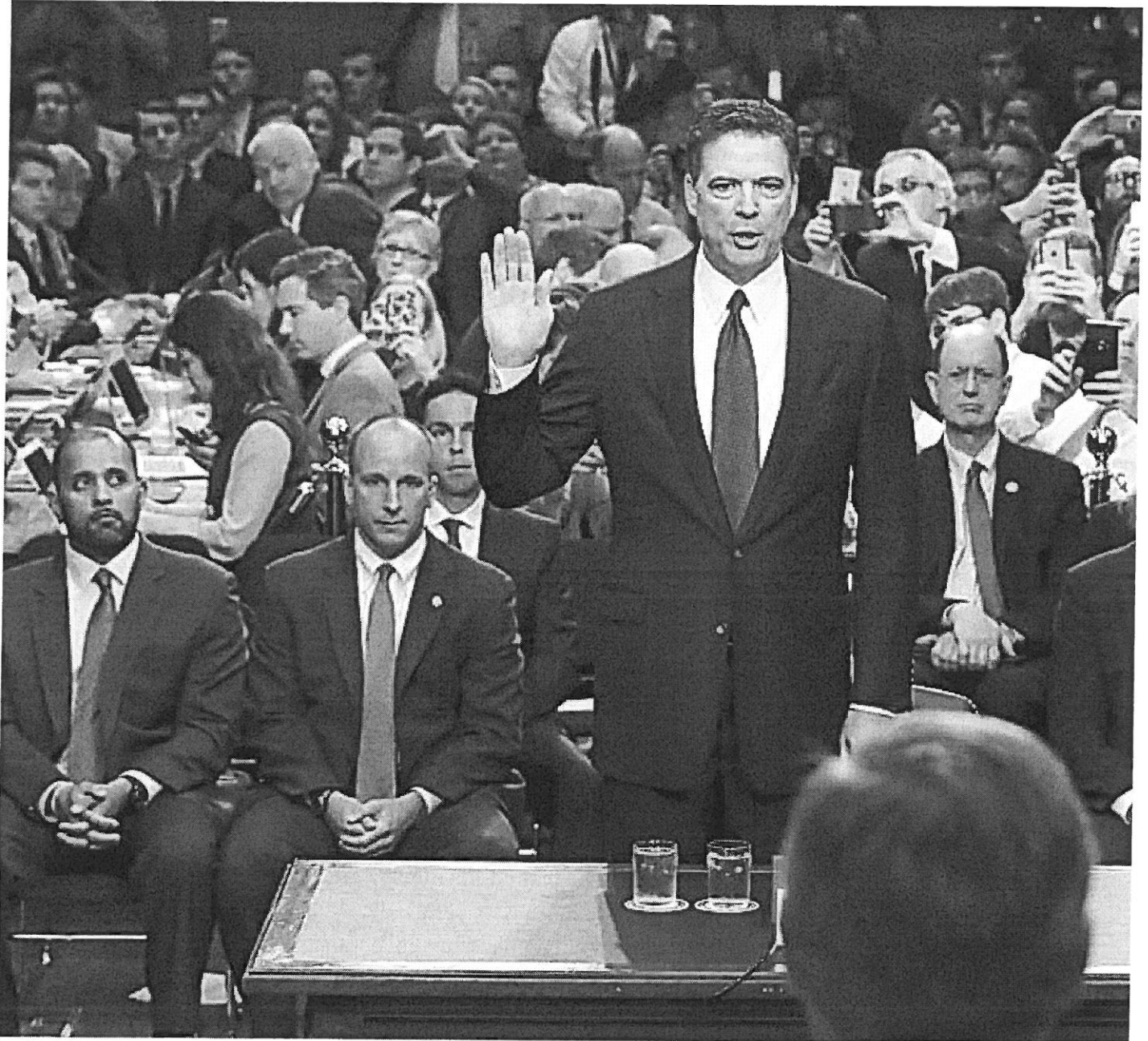


# What We Learned From Former FBI Director James Comey

June 08, 2017 Updated 6/9/2017 3:01 PM

By Kathleen McNerney, Caitlin O'Keefe, and Meghna Chakrabarti



Thursday, former FBI Director James Comey gave two and a half hours of highly anticipated testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Comey was repeatedly asked about details revealed in his written testimony, submitted Wednesday. Specifically, he was asked why he took it upon himself to write memos of every visit and call he made with President Trump.

"I was honestly concerned that he might lie about the nature of our meeting," said Comey. "So I thought it really important to document."

Comey also confirmed the serious nature of the Russian hacking in the 2016 election.

"There should be no fuzz on this whatsoever," said Comey. "The Russians interfered in our election during the 2016 cycle. They did it with purpose, they did it with sophistication, they did it with overwhelming technical efforts, and it was an active measures campaign driven from the top of that government."

### **Donald Stern on what Congress heard in Comey's testimony**

"[Comey] was not prepared to answer the ultimate question here, which is: Was this obstruction or what did the president intend? I think you have to look at all the circumstances. I think hopefully that's what Congress will do and I know that's what [Special Prosecutor] Bob Mueller will do ...

**"It's rare in any criminal case, certainly when you're talking about a potential obstruction case, that the person says, 'Now let me tell you, I wanna obstruct justice here.'"**

Former U.S. Attorney Donald Stern

That's just not the way it works. It's the whole fabric of circumstances. So here you've got the president's own tweets, you've got the direct conversation in the Oval Office and on phone calls ... and of course ultimately, the firing of James Comey as director of the FBI. So it's not one thing."

### **Donald Stern on Comey's reveal that he leaked his memos**

"I don't think that was the way to go. I'm not applauding the fact that Jim Comey was the one who leaked it to the press. I think there are probably some other alternatives including going to Congress and providing that information."