

Ambassador Sondland Updates Impeachment Testimony

Ambassador to the EU, Gordon D. Sondland, privately testified before the House Intelligence Committee for nine hours as part of the investigation into the whistleblower complaint. In his initial testimony, Sondland recounted how he had expressed concern into why the President's personal lawyer was interfering in foreign policy with Ukraine but chose to continue to work within the space provided. Sondland also expressed that he had no knowledge about a "quid pro quo" and told William Taylor - another senior diplomat who is raising red flags - that there was no "quid pro quo" and that he had no prior knowledge that Hunter Biden was on the board of a company that the President wanted to be investigated. The "quid pro quo" remains central to the case for impeachment as it will confirm that the White House withheld foreign military aid from Ukraine until the Ukrainian government agreed to open two investigations that President Trump wanted.

Following Sondland's testimony, other foreign policy officials continued to testify and the House Intelligence Committee released transcripts of previous depositions, most of which directly contradicted Sondland's testimony. On November 5th, in a released four-page sworn document, Sondland recanted his earlier testimony and disclosed that he himself had told a high ranking Ukrainian official that the release of military aid funding was contingent upon the investigations the President had asked for. The disclosure is the complete opposite of Sondland's original testimony and implicates him as a critical piece in the question of the "quid pro quo."

Sondland's new written testimony seems also to serve as an answer to why he did not disclose this information to the investigative committee before. In the statement, Sondland testifies that the information provided by other witnesses served as reminders of things he had previously forgotten. Despite this, some people are viewing the addendum of testimony as proof that Sondland lied under oath last month in front of the committee and it suggests that Sondland knew more than he told Taylor in the text exchange suggesting there was no "quid pro quo." Still many of President Trump's supporters point to Sondland's testimony as proof that the President himself said there was no "quid pro quo" even if others in his administration perceived there to be and acted upon it.

With the addendum to his testimony, Sondland has made himself an even more crucial witness in the investigations. However, it is still unclear if this new evidence of a spoken "quid pro quo" will help the case for impeachment or harm it since by certain appearances it seems constrained.