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June 12, 2017

Comey and Mueller have a history as a Deep State tag team **By Clarice Feldman** 

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of the similarity of the Comey-Mueller investigation of purported "Russian collusion" with the Trump campaign to the confected search for who leaked Valerie Plame's name. This was a scheme against Vice President Cheney that ended in the conviction of his aide, Lewis Libby, for a weakly proven process crime. I had missed that Comey and Mueller may well have honed their Deep State purge of

In my Sunday column, I wrote

political opponents then, something clearly at the bottom of this nonsensical investigation into "Russian collusion" with the Trump campaign. According to Michael Isikoff, writing in 2006, the FBI (then headed by

Mueller) and an unnamed "senior Department of Justice official" were advised in October 2003 that Armitage was the man who leaked Plame's identity – and yet two months later, upon his appointment to be deputy attorney general, James Comey appointed his friend Patrick Fitzgerald to investigate the leak. It's hard to believe he didn't at the time know full well who the leaker was. Professor Jacobson at Legal Insurrection indicates that Comey's

testimony suggests that Mueller is already going beyond the narrow mandate of Acting Attorney General Rosenstein and considering whether the president's discussion with him about General Flynn constitutes "obstruction."

Rosenstein, Mueller includes within his jurisdiction "any

By the Order from Deputy Attorney General Rod

matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation." Comey testified that he believes Mueller is evaluating the communications between Comey and Trump with regard to potential obstruction of justice. Indeed, Comey expressed certainty in his testimony that the Special Counsel was investigating Comey's conversations with Trump: COMEY: ... I don't think it's for me to say whether the conversation I had with the president was an

effort to obstruct. I took it as a very disturbing thing, very concerning, but that's a conclusion I'm sure the special counsel will work towards to try and understand what the intention was there, and whether that's an offense.



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CBS News reported that Mueller reportedly gave

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What started as concerns over Russian interference in the election now is about the interactions between Comey and Trump.

**approval** for Comey to testify before Congress and that

he was permitted to review his memos in preparation of his

written opening statement for the Committee submitted the

the testimony was coordinated. Comey testified that

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day before his live testimony: COMEY: Yes. I think nearly all of my written recordings of my conversations, I had a chance to review them before filing my statement. LANKFORD: Do you have a copy of any of the notes personally?

COMEY: I don't. I turned them over to Bob

Mueller's investigators.

There are a lot of questions that need to be answered about how Rod Rosenstein came to appoint Mueller in those few days after the Comey leak, and whether Comey and

regarding Trump prior to Mueller's appointment. Regardless, we now have the prospect of the Special Counsel investigating and necessarily assigning credibility (or lack thereof) to witnesses, including Comey.

Mueller, directly or indirectly, had any communications

It's time to shut this down. Rosenstein should do it, and if he fails to, Attorney General Sessions must.



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