

Committee Berates FBI Agent for 'Unprecedented Level of Animus'

In a 10-hour marathon joint hearing between the House Judiciary and Oversight Committees on Capitol Hill Thursday, senior FBI agent Peter Strzok began his testimony on the offense.

"I strongly believe that today's hearing is just another victory notch in Putin's belt," he told members of the committees.

Strzok played major roles in investigations into both Hillary Clinton's private email server and potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

At the center of suspicion surrounding him are a series of text messages he exchanged with his lover, former FBI attorney Lisa Page.

Strzok told members of the committees that he separated his political opinions from his investigations into Clinton and the Trump campaign.

Once special counsel Robert Mueller found out about his text messages he fired him from the Russia investigation.

Some of the most intense questioning on that point came from House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C.

"It wasn't the discovery of your texts, Mr. Strzok. It was the existence of your bias that got you kicked off," Gowdy said.

At one point, Strzok refused to answer questions, citing a directive by FBI attorneys, leading the chairman to threaten him with contempt of Congress. {eoa}

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