



The Comey Memos

James B. Comey

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On May 9, 2017, James Comey, was in Los Angeles on official business when he learned from a television broadcast that U.S. President Donald J. Trump had sent a terse letter informing him of his termination in a manila envelope by courier to the F.B.I. headquarters in Washington. That action was closely followed by the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the Russian meddling in the 2016 elections and “any other actions” that may be uncovered. These matters and their many offspring have dominated the public conversation ever since. While Mr. Comey was no doubt shocked, it is doubtful that he was very surprised, given the testy nature of his relationship with Mr. Trump during their brief working relationship. On May 16,

a week after the firing, we learned that Comey had documented every meeting and telephone call he had with the President in a series of detailed memos. In his testimony to the Congress in June, he said he had done so to create a “paper trail” to record “what he saw as the president’s improper effort to influence a continuing investigation” and because he “was honestly concerned he (Trump) might lie” about them. There are seven memos in all, written over a period of about three and a half months and released to the public on April 19, 2018. They are read here in entirety. While many of us are familiar with some statements and events reported by the news media, it is enlightening and instructive to hear them in full.

James Brien Comey (born December 14, 1960) is an American attorney best known for his tenure as the 7th Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His career includes serving as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 2002-2003 and as U.S. Deputy Attorney from 2003–2005. He left the Department of Justice in 2005 to become senior vice president and general counsel of Lockheed Martin, followed by a similar position at Bridgewater Associates in 2010 before becoming a Senior Research Scholar at Columbia Law School in 2013. He was appointed by Barack Obama to a ten-year term as FBI Director in September, 2013. He first made headlines in 2006 when he refused to certify the legality of aspects of NSA activities while serving as Acting Attorney General during the hospitalization of Attorney General John Ashcroft. He aroused controversy during the 2016 Presidential Election when he went against department policy by making a public announcement of the Bureau’s decision to end the investigation into the handling of Hilary Clinton’s personal email server without criminal charges while deeming the behavior of her and her top staff “extremely reckless”. A second announcement about re-opening the investigation following the discovery of her emails on a laptop computer belonging to Anthony Weiner, the husband of her chief of staff, in connection with his criminal investigation, was made two weeks before the election and was considered by many as crucial factor in Ms. Clinton’s loss. His book, *A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership*, was published in April 2018.