

Special Counsel Investigations

Senate Appropriations Hearing 4/26/2022 (Garland)

BRAUN: Thank you, Madam Chair. As I was going to another committee hearing and I just talked to Madam Chair, we got three of them at the same time today. It seems like we could organize ourselves a little better. I was listening to your conversation with Senator Hagerty. And I did not hear the end result. And I'm assuming he probably asked, do we need a special prosecutor to look into the Hunter Biden, you know, affair. Do you think we need to? And I would then have one follow-up question to that? So do we need a special prosecutor to look into that?

GARLAND: So as you know, the investigation is being run and supervised by the United States attorney in Delaware, who was an appointee of the previous administration and continues on as the United States attorney. The question of whether to have a special counsel as one that it's an internal decision making in the department. So I don't want to make any judgments one way or the other. But I'm quite comfortable with the United States attorney for that district continuing in the role that he's playing.

BRAUN: So a follow-up question that would be. Of course, Special Prosecutor, Prosecutor Counsel Mueller, you know, was assigned in that hole Steele dossier issue, which now has been debunked. If you had been in that capacity, then do you think a Special Counsel was needed there as well?

GARLAND: It's hard to put myself back into, into that circumstances. And then of course there would be a different -- for me to be in that position there would have been a different precedent. So ...

BRAUN: Yeah.

GARLAND: ... I've -- I'm not sure I can answer that hypothetically.

BRAUN: Well, it's obvious that that would be a question that many would wonder about in terms of what that standard is, what that -- it seems like it would be the same from one administration to the next.

House Judiciary Committee 10/21/2021 (Garland)

KEN BUCK: I have sent a letter to the Department of Justice before your tenure, asking them to appoint a special counsel to investigate Hunter Biden. I have today sent a letter to you and I am asking you now, will you appoint a special counsel to investigate Hunter Biden?

MERRICK GARLAND: I'm not -- for the same reason that I'm not able to respond to questions about investigations of the former president or of anyone else, I'm not able to discuss any investigations pending or otherwise with respect to any citizen of the United States.

KEN BUCK: Mr. Attorney General, I worked for the Department of Justice for 15 years. You are allowed to tell us whether you will appoint a special counsel. You may not tell us whether you are

investigating or not investigating a particular matter, but you are allowed to tell us whether you will appoint a special counsel.
And that's my question.

MERRICK GARLAND: Well, apparently, I just received a letter today from you and we'll be taking it under advisement. But I wasn't aware that you had sent me a letter.

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