Mark Perry Called Rudy Giuliani at Trump's Direction to Minimize Concerns

Trump's campaign lawyer said Jan. 6 prompted his hunt Trump in 2016 election, energy secretary says in interview

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WASHINGTON—Energy Secretary Rick Perry said he sought out Rudy Giuliani at the urging of President Trump's direction to address the former New York mayor's concerns, a sign of how the president's lawyer worked with the administration to pursue his claims of fraud.

Mr. Perry, in an exclusive interview with The Wall Street Journal, said he was asked to call Mr. Giuliani by Trump and his chief of staff, Mark Meadows. Mr. Trump told his son Eric Trump, who was in the room, to tell Mr. Perry to call Mr. Giuliani and "make sure he knows we're serious about the election fraud," Mr. Perry said in an interview Mr. Perry's account adds another piece to the puzzle of how the administration worked to pursue claims of fraud in the 2020 U.S. election, concerns that have been rejected by courts.

Mr. Perry also said he never heard the president or his lawyers discuss the idea of seizing voting machines, a proposal that has been discussed by investigators following President Trump's efforts, a proposal he said he never heard discussed. Mr. Perry said he "wouldn't be surprised" if Mr. Trump asked for the seizure of voting machines, but he said he never heard the president discuss it.

Mr. Giuliani, in an interview, confirmed the setup phone call and said he was telling Mr. Perry to be "cooperative." Mr. Giuliani said he was "very impressed" with Mr. Perry's cooperation. Mr. Perry (probably) said on television 10 times "no comment."

Mr. Giuliani has repeatedly accused Democrats of stealing the election through voter fraud, including in Georgia, where he has made numerous statements and others can see a video in mainstream media showing ballots being pulled from a suitcase after election officials had left the room. He has called—a lifelong about which the president has made numerous claims.

Trump and Giuliani A Guide to the Key Players

Mr. Perry's phone call to Mr. Giuliani came after a May meeting at the White House following the Nov. 3 election, which Mr. Perry said was "very, very contentious." Mr. Trump, who was then at the Bedminster, N.J., golf course, called in to the meeting and asked Mr. Perry to call Mr. Giuliani and "make sure he knows we're serious about the election fraud," Mr. Perry said.

Mr. Trump said he was "very concerned" about the election and said he had "a lot of information." Mr. Perry said he "didn't see the reason the president doesn't have that information."

Mr. Trump, in the July 25 call with Mr. Zelensky, said he was sending his "great" lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, to Ukraine to "clean" the Biden family of corruption. Mr. Giuliani, who was then a lawyer for the president, was in Ukraine at the same time the White House gave more power to the Ukrainian prosecutor who was investigating Hunter Biden, a lucrative business venture with the matter said.

Hunter Biden sat on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time as his father, Joe Biden, was vice president and was in charge of the administration's efforts to root out corruption in Ukraine, and the president has been accused of using his position to benefit his family.

Mr. Giuliani's business and political dealings in Ukraine have become central to the Trump administration's interactions with Ukraine, and Mr. Giuliani's efforts to pressure Ukrainian officials to dig up dirt on Democrats attracted last week an impeachment inquiry and Senate trial. Political prosecutors accusing Mr. Giuliani's efforts to pressure Ukraine to dig up dirt on Democrats attracted last week an impeachment inquiry and Senate trial.

Political signatures have landed in the private email accounts of Mr. Giuliani, who has been working often directly on behalf of the president and his administration, and Mr. Giuliani has made the pitch for the administration to Ukrainian officials, according to people familiar with the matter said.

Mr. Perry's involvement with the new Ukrainian prosecutor, Yuriy Lutsenko, who was in the room at the same time the White House gave more power to the Ukrainian prosecutor who was investigating Hunter Biden, a lucrative business venture with the matter said.

According to the introductory complaint filed in the case, Mr. Giuliani's involvement with the Ukrainian prosecutor, Yuriy Lutsenko, who had been set to lead the investigation, but had resigned, was in the room at the same time the White House gave more power to the Ukrainian prosecutor who was investigating Hunter Biden, a lucrative business venture with the matter. In June, Mr. Perry was the Ukrainian prosecutor.

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