



Another Mole? President Trump's Nominee for Atty General, William Barr, Is Close Friends with Robert Mueller

President Trump nominated William Barr for the position as attorney general, recently vacated by Jeff Sessions. Barr says he will not hinder or interfere with the Mueller investigation, despite the damage it has done to the President and despite its failure to produce proof of Russian collusion. Barr and Mueller – and their wives – are close friends. Mueller attended the weddings of Barr's children. -GEG

The incoming chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said Wednesday that attorney general nominee William Barr has confidence in special counsel Robert Mueller and will let him complete his Russia investigation.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said after meeting with Barr, who led the Justice Department under President George H.W. Bush, that Barr has a “high opinion” of Mueller. Barr was spending most of Wednesday on Capitol Hill, meeting senators on the committee before his confirmation hearing next week.

"He had absolutely no indication he was going to tell Bob Mueller what to do or how to do it," Graham said.

President Donald Trump pushed out Attorney General Jeff Sessions in November and made Sessions' chief of staff, Matthew Whitaker, the acting attorney general before nominating Barr in December.

Trump's critics have expressed concern that Barr may try to curtail Mueller's investigation, which Trump repeatedly has called a "hoax" and a "witch hunt." Also, Barr wrote an unsolicited memo to the Justice Department last year critiquing Mueller's investigation into whether the president sought to obstruct justice by firing James Comey as FBI director.

Graham said Barr also told him about his longtime relationship with Mueller. Barr and Mueller worked together when Barr was Bush's attorney general from 1991 to 1993 and Mueller oversaw the department's criminal division. Graham said that the two men were "best friends," that their wives attended Bible study together and that Mueller had attended the weddings of Barr's children.

"So his opinion of Mr. Mueller is very, very high in terms of ethics and character and professionalism," Graham said.

Graham listed a number of questions that he had put to Barr: "I asked Mr. Barr directly, 'Do you think Mr. Mueller is on a witch hunt?' He said no. 'Do you think he would be fair to the president and the country as a whole?' He said yes. 'And do you see any reason for Mr. Mueller's investigation to be stopped?' He said no. 'Do you see any reason for a termination based on cause?' He said no. 'Are you committed to making sure Mr. Mueller can finish his job?' 'Yes.'"

Graham said Barr said that if he were attorney general, he would "err on the side of transparency" when he eventually received Mueller's report.

The senator said Barr also told him that he has a high opinion of Rod Rosenstein, the current deputy attorney general who has so far overseen the Mueller investigation and is expected to leave office if Barr is confirmed.

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