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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Mark Meadows  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Chief of Staff Meadows:

Congratulations on your new position. Chief of Staff is an essential job in any administration, but your role is more critical than ever given the challenges we face due to COVID-19. I look forward to working with you to support the health, safety, and economic security of all Americans.

I write today about the nomination of Michael Pack to be CEO of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, formerly the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

I wrote to your predecessor, then Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, almost three months ago to alert him to Mr. Pack's refusal to respond to vetting-related questions relevant to his nomination. I did not receive a response from Mr. Mulvaney or others at the White House.

I have also corresponded directly with Mr. Pack concerning the outstanding requests. To date, his responses have been perfunctory and inadequate. More than seven months have gone by since my initial questions. Mr. Pack has yet to provide the Committee with the requested information or to engage in a good-faith and serious effort to do so.

This state of affairs is unfortunate. As I have told Mr. Pack and conveyed to Chairman Risch, I was prepared to move forward with Mr. Pack's nomination prior to problematic revelations that surfaced on the eve of his confirmation hearing. It is my hope that we can work collectively in a bipartisan fashion, and with Mr. Pack's cooperation, to resolve these outstanding questions.

As previously conveyed to the White House, Chairman Risch, and Mr. Pack, there are three areas of concern:

- Whether Mr. Pack engaged in inappropriate or unlawful activity related to transactions between his business (Manifold Productions) and his non-profit (Public Media Lab), as well as Mr. Pack's erroneous statements to the IRS and potential outstanding tax liabilities stemming from transactions between Manifold and Public Media Lab;
- Whether Mr. Pack engaged in self-dealing while in a leadership position at the Claremont Institute through the awarding of a contract to Manifold even though that business was not qualified to perform the work required under the contract;
- Whether Mr. Pack departed the Claremont Institute due to negative circumstances that bear on whether he should be entrusted with responsibility over a U.S. government agency.

Ensuring that the Committee receives information bearing on the above-listed matters is my responsibility as Ranking Member and is necessary for the Committee to discharge its constitutional responsibilities. If confirmed, Mr. Pack will head an agency with more than 3,300 employees, a budget of approximately \$750 million, and content that reaches a weekly audience of approximately 345 million people. The matters at issue bear directly on the question of whether the Committee and the Senate should entrust him with this massive responsibility.

It would be helpful to understand whether the White House has examined these issues and, if so, how they were resolved such that the White House is comfortable moving forward with Mr. Pack's nomination. For example, Mr. Pack has acknowledged that he made false statements to the IRS, yet he has indicated that he has no intention of correcting the record or providing the IRS with required additional disclosures because his private attorney has advised him not to do so. Of course, Mr. Pack's private attorney represents only Mr. Pack's interests, not those of the United States.

Does the White House agree that there is no need for Mr. Pack to provide accurate information or required disclosures to the IRS? If so, how did the White House arrive at this conclusion and does the IRS agree? Does this position apply only to Mr. Pack, or does it apply more broadly to Trump Administration nominees and other U.S. taxpayers?

While ultimately Mr. Pack's cooperation is essential, I am hopeful that your answers to these questions (and related ones on the other two areas of concern) will help the Committee understand how the White House is approaching the Pack nomination and help move the process forward. Given the myriad Trump administration nominees with significant vetting problems, I believe more engagement between the Committee and the White House along these lines would be productive.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. I am hopeful that we can bring it to an expeditious resolution, and my staff and I are available to work with the White House and Chairman Risch to do so. Once again, I look forward to working with you in your new capacity.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez  
Ranking Member

CC: The Honorable James E. Risch  
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Attachment: Letter from Ranking Member Menendez to then Acting Chief of Staff Mulvaney, dated January 29, 2020.