

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents and Their Admins Since 1973

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Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

Overview

The A-Mark Foundation commissioned this report on special investigations involving presidents and those close to them following the May 17, 2017, appointment of Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller to investigate possible collusion among President Donald J. Trump, his presidential campaign, and Russia in the 2016 US presidential election.

This report effectively begins with the Watergate investigation of President Richard M. Nixon starting on May 19, 1973. There is some commentary for historical context on the appointment of the first special prosecutor investigation, initiated by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1875.¹ This report concludes with the investigation into Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, which ended on March 22, 2019.

Our criteria for the special investigations of the eight presidents included in this report versus the 23 investigations noted in the Appendix are as follows:

The eight special investigations beginning in 1973 were investigations by special prosecutors/independent counsels/special counsels that began with possible offense(s) tied directly or indirectly to the president in office, and the investigation of President Gerald R. Ford which began with the investigation of President Nixon. The other 23 special investigations in the Appendix either occurred prior to 1973, or seemingly involved personal behavior or actions not tied directly or indirectly to presidential administration business or action.

Excluded from this work entirely are investigations of presidents and their administrations that did not involve a special prosecutor, independent counsel, or special counsel, such as [impeachment proceedings](#), which occur in the House of Representatives.

¹ Sarah Pruitt, "The Whiskey Ring and America's First Special Prosecutor," history.com, May 18, 2017

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I. Summary: US Presidential Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel Investigations 1973 to 2019

The first special investigation of a US president occurred in 1875 in relation to the Whiskey Ring Scandal, a widespread scheme to defraud the government of tax revenue and raise campaign funds for President Ulysses S. Grant and other political candidates.² President Grant appointed John B. Henderson as special prosecutor to investigate the scandal, then fired him and appointed James Brodhead in his place. Grant was not the subject of investigation, but his private secretary, Orville E. Babcock, was indicted in the conspiracy. Grant testified to his innocence and Babcock was acquitted.³ The cost of investigation was \$65,684.85, which was an estimated \$1,442,672.72 in 2017 dollars.^{4,5}

While other special investigations have occurred in US history (see Appendix A), this report focuses on eight special investigations with alleged offenses tied directly or indirectly to the president in office, starting with Watergate in 1973.

There have been nine presidential administrations since the beginning of Watergate to the date of this report, from Nixon to Trump. The only presidential administration that was not part of an investigation by a special prosecutor/independent counsel/special counsel was that of President Barack Obama.⁶ The investigation of Gerald Ford was part of the Watergate investigation started during the Nixon administration.

² Sarah Pruitt, "Ulysses S. Grant, the Whiskey Ring and America's First Special Prosecutor," history.com, April 24, 2020

³ "Whiskey Ring," britannica.com, accessed on March 28, 2018

⁴ The original cost of the investigation was \$65,684.85, according to the St. Louis Republican, which was re-published in the Washington Law Reporter, page 42, on March 24, 1876

⁵ Calculated online at in2013dollars.com on March 28, 2018.

⁶ Sonam Sheth, "Obama is the Only President Since Nixon Who Didn't Face an Independent Investigation," businessinsider.com, October 23, 2017

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	U.S. President in Office During Investigation A.	U.S. President / Admin Involved in Investigation B.	Subject of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel Investigations C.	Number of Days of Investigation, Dates Started and Ended D.	Total Cost of Investigation [Daily cost] E.
1.	Nixon	Nixon	Watergate: Investigation initiated after agents of the Committee to Re-Elect the President were convicted of breaking into the DNC headquarters in the Watergate building.	The Nixon/Ford investigations ran from May 19, 1973, ⁷ to June 20, 1977, ⁸ for a total of 1,464⁹ days.	The total cost of the Nixon/Ford investigations ¹⁰ in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$47,094,590.10.¹¹ [\$32,168.44/day]
2.	Ford	Ford	Watergate special prosecutor also investigated alleged misuse of political contributions by President Gerald R. Ford.	Linked to Watergate investigation in #1	Linked to Watergate investigation in #1
3.	Carter	Carter	Peanut Warehouse: An inquiry was initiated to investigate loans from the National Bank of	The Carter investigation ran from March 23, 1979, ¹² to Oct. 16,	The total cost of the Carter investigation in March 13, 2017,

⁷ George Lardner, Jr., "Cox Is Chosen as Special Prosecutor," WashingtonPost.com, May 19, 1973

⁸ "Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force," online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

⁹ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

¹⁰ Total costs are from a White House Office of Communication note from June 7, 1974.

¹¹ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The "US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018." Calculated for last year of investigation, 1977.

¹² Paul J. Curran, Special Counsel, "Investigation of Carter's Warehouse and the National Bank of Georgia Report to the Congress of the United States," Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: 10/16/79 [1]; Container 135, JimmyCarterLibrary.gov, Oct. 16, 1979

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	U.S. President in Office During Investigation A.	U.S. President / Admin Involved in Investigation B.	Subject of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel Investigations C.	Number of Days of Investigation, Dates Started and Ended D.	Total Cost of Investigation [Daily cost] E.
			Georgia to the Carter family business that may have been used to fund Carter's 1976 campaign.	1979, ¹³ for a total of 208 ¹⁴ days.	dollars was \$1,215,471.07. ¹⁵ [\$5,843/day]
4.	Reagan / H.W. Bush	Reagan	Iran-Contra Affair: Inquiry initiated when it was exposed that the U.S. government was assisting Nicaraguan contra rebels, and selling arms to Iran.	The Reagan investigation ran from Dec. 19, 1986, ¹⁶ to Aug. 4, 1993, ¹⁷ for a total of 2,420 ¹⁸ days.	The total cost of the Reagan investigation in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$81,098,533.51. ¹⁹ [\$33,511.79/day]

¹³ Paul J. Curran, Special Counsel, "Investigation of Carter's Warehouse and the National Bank of Georgia Report to the Congress of the United States," Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: 10/16/79 [1]; Container 135, JimmyCarterLibrary.gov, Oct. 16, 1979

¹⁴ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

¹⁵ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The "US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018."

¹⁶ "Records of Lawrence Walsh relating to Iran/Contra," NationalArchives.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹⁷ "53. The Iran-Contra Report, August 4 1993 [Excerpts]," The Encyclopedia of Middle East Wars, Page 161

¹⁸ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

¹⁹ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The "US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018."

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	U.S. President in Office During Investigation A.	U.S. President / Admin Involved in Investigation B.	Subject of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel Investigations C.	Number of Days of Investigation, Dates Started and Ended D.	Total Cost of Investigation [Daily cost] E.
5.	H.W. Bush	H.W. Bush	BNL Investigation: An inquiry was initiated into "the Bush Administration's handling of a billion-dollar bank-fraud case involving illegal loans to Iraq." ²⁰	The H.W. Bush investigation ran from Oct. 16, 1992, ²¹ to Dec. 8, 1992, ²² for a total of 54²³ days.	The total cost of the H.W. Bush investigation in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$650,611.03. ²⁴ [\$12,048.35/day]
6.	Clinton / W. Bush	Clinton	Whitewater: The initial investigation was to look into the Clintons' Arkansas land-deal investments while Bill Clinton was governor.	The Clinton investigations ran from Jan. 20, 1994, ²⁵ to March 23, 2004, ²⁶ for a total of 3,716²⁷ days.	The total cost of the Clinton investigations in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$83,358,502.05. ²⁸ [\$22,432.32/day]

²⁰ Elaine Sciolino, "ATTORNEY GENERAL NAMES PROSECUTOR IN IRAQ-LOANS CASE," NYTimes.com, Oct. 17, 1992

²¹ Ronald J. Ostrow and Douglas Frantz, "Ex-Judge to Investigate Iraq Loans : Probe: Frederick Lacey of New Jersey will explore role of Justice Department and CIA in scandal. Democrats criticize attorney general's plan.," Articles.LATimes.com, Oct. 17, 1992

²² Times Wire Service, "Counsel Wraps Up Report on Iraq Loan Case Investigation," Articles.LATimes.com, Dec. 9, 1992

²³ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

²⁴ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The "US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018."

²⁵ "Whitewater Timeline," Academic.Brooklyn.cuny.edu

²⁶ GAO report number GAO-04-1014, "Financial Audit: Independent and Special Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 2004," online at GAO.gov, Sept. 30, 2004

²⁷ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

²⁸ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The "US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018."

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	U.S. President in Office During Investigation A.	U.S. President / Admin Involved in Investigation B.	Subject of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel Investigations C.	Number of Days of Investigation, Dates Started and Ended D.	Total Cost of Investigation [Daily cost] E.
7.	W. Bush	W. Bush	Plamegate: An inquiry was initiated into the leak of CIA agent Valerie Plame's identity after she was identified by name in a syndicated column. High-level George W. Bush admin officials were investigated, the vice president's chief of staff was prosecuted, then pardoned by Bush.	The W. Bush investigation ran from Dec. 30, 2003, ²⁹ to Dec. 11, 2007, ³⁰ for a total of 1,443³¹ days.	The total cost of the W. Bush investigation in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$3,050,079.58.³² [\$2,113.70/day]

²⁹ Department of Justice Press Conference transcript, "Appointment of special prosecutor to oversee investigation into alleged leak of CIA agent identity and recusal of Attorney General Ashcroft from the investigation," online at FAS.org, Dec. 30, 2003

³⁰ "On December 11, 2007 the administration official dropped his appeal of his convictions. This matter is now concluded for all practical purposes, but the office of special counsel will continue for limited purposes, such as responding to Congressional requests for information," according to a GAO Report dated March 2008 titled "FINANCIAL AUDIT: Special Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended September 30, 2007."

³¹ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

³² Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The "US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018."

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	U.S. President in Office During Investigation A.	U.S. President / Admin Involved in Investigation B.	Subject of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel Investigations C.	Number of Days of Investigation, Dates Started and Ended D.	Total Cost of Investigation [Daily cost] E.
8.	Trump	Trump	An inquiry was initiated to investigate alleged ties between President Trump's campaign and Russian officials in the 2016 presidential election.	The Trump investigation ran from May 17, 2017. ³³ to March 22, 2019, (when Robert S. Mueller submitted his report) ³⁴ for a total of 675³⁵ days .	The total cost of the Trump investigation in 2017 dollars was \$30,406,381.77.³⁶ This cost covers May 17, 2017, to May 31, 2019, a total of 745 days of DOJ expenditure reporting. [\$45,046.49/day for the 675-day investigation]

³³ "Special Counsel's Office: Related Court Documents," United States Department of Justice website Justice.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

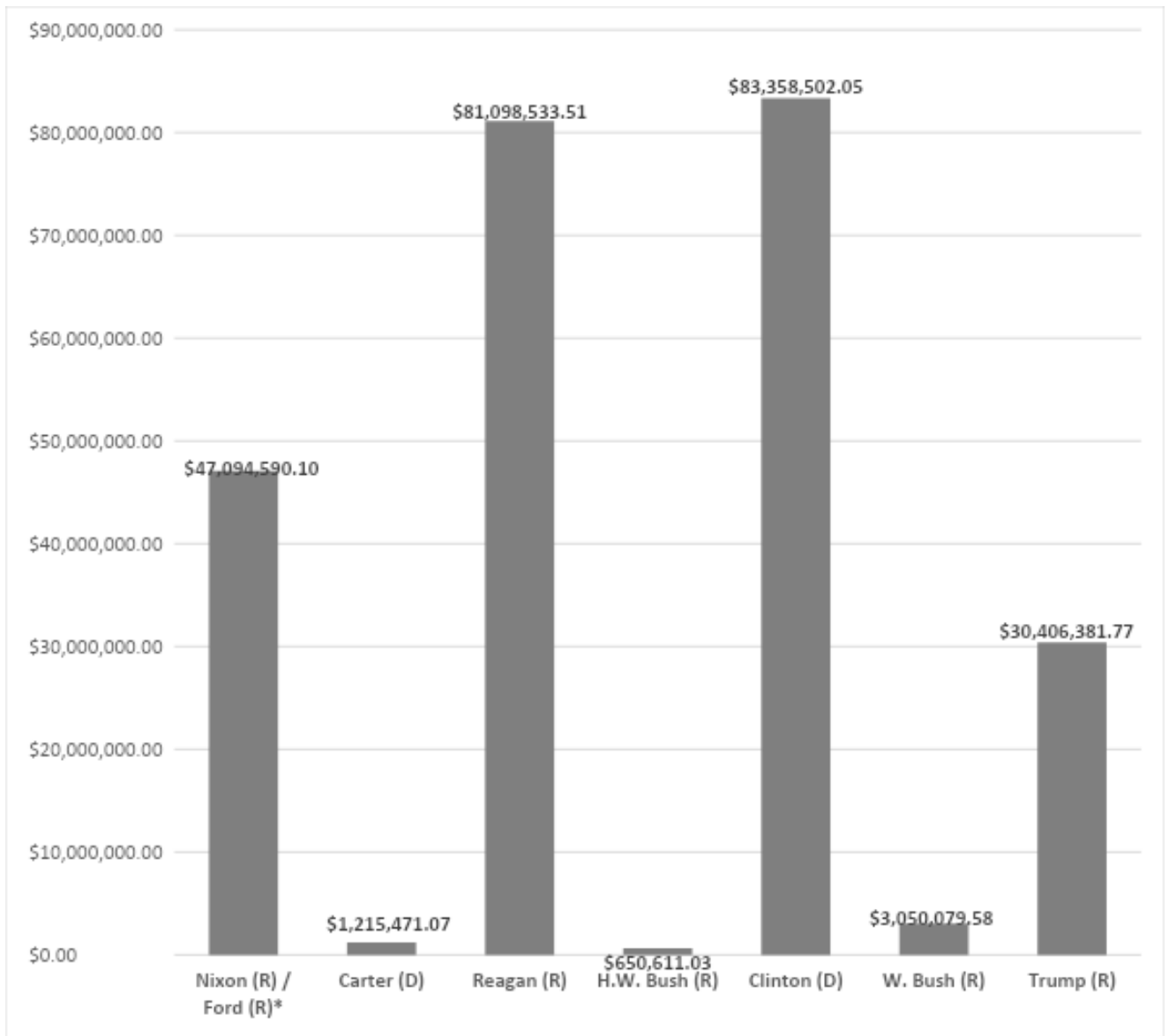
³⁴ "Read William Barr's Letter to Congress on the Mueller Report," NYTimes.com, March 22, 2019

³⁵ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

³⁶ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com. "This US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on July 11 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through June 2019. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) and inflation for July 2019 is scheduled for release by the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics on August 13, 2019." Accessed on Aug. 8, 2019

II. Charts of Summary Metrics

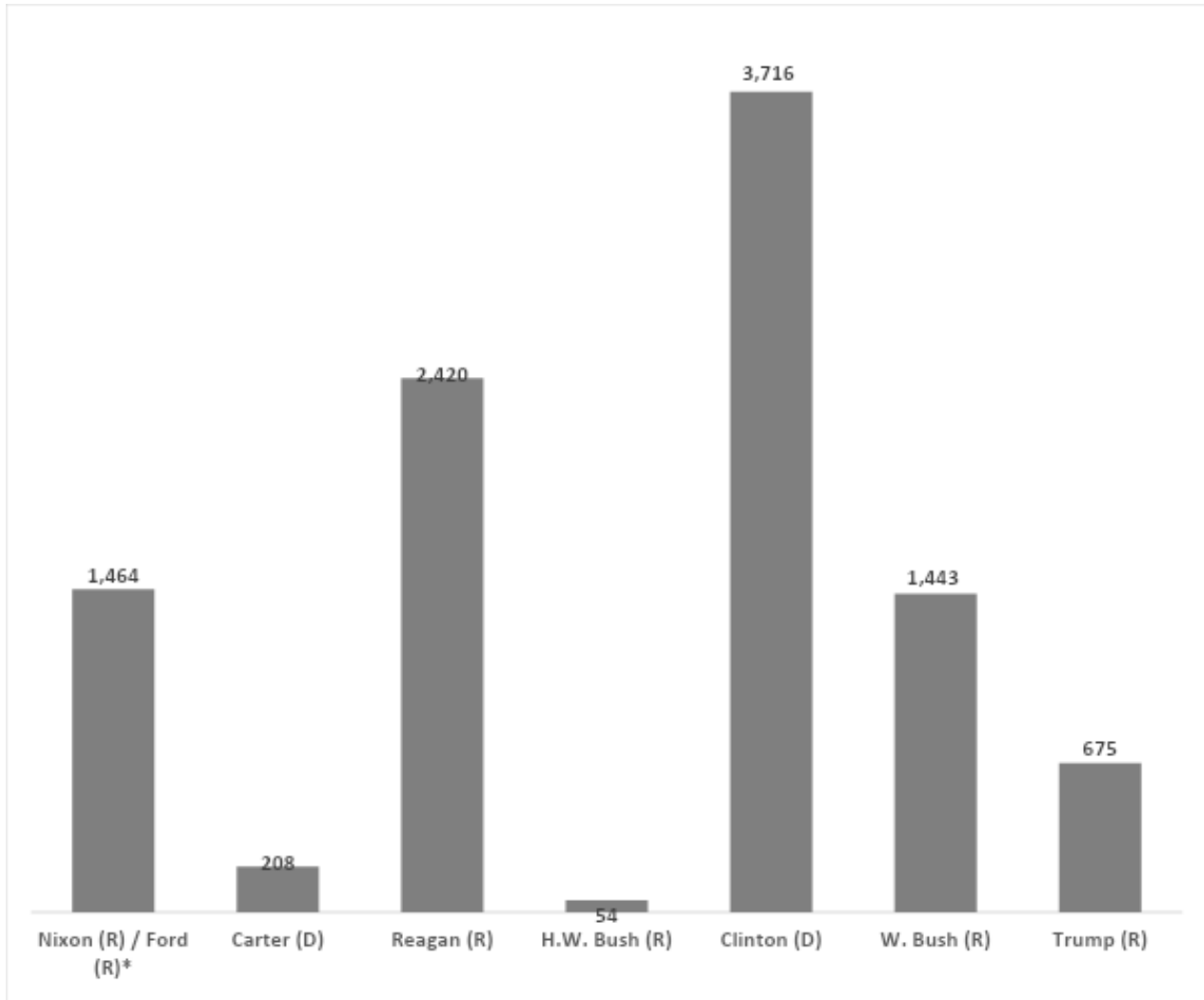
1. Chart: Total Cost of Each Investigation in 2017 Dollars



**The Watergate investigation continued into the administration of Gerald R. Ford Jr., who was also investigated during the investigation of Nixon, after President Richard M. Nixon resigned. The amount shown for Nixon/Ford is the combined total found for the entire Watergate investigation across the two administrations.*

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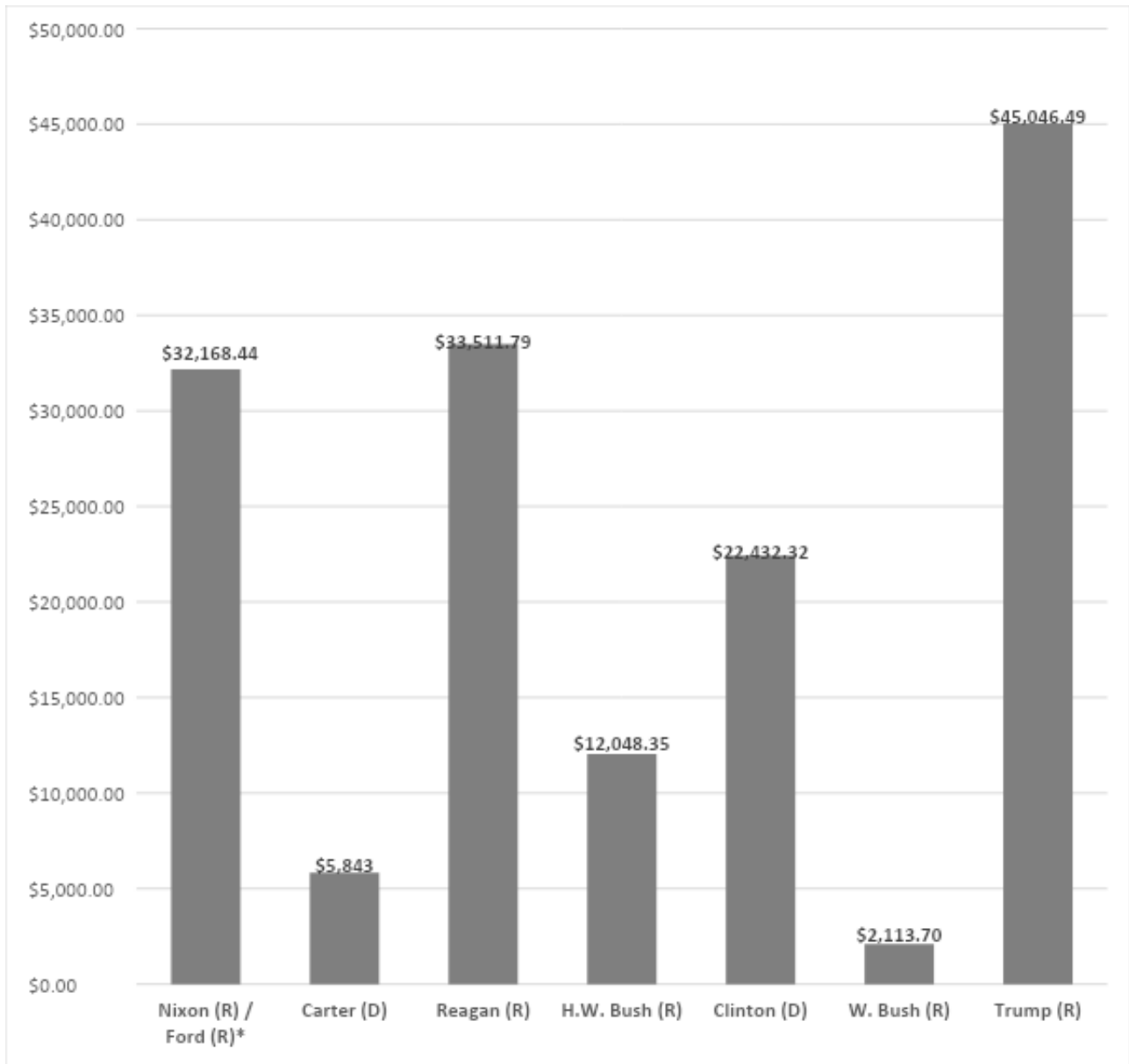
2. Chart: Total Number of Days of Each Investigation



**The Watergate investigation continued into the administration of Gerald R. Ford Jr., who was also investigated during the investigation of Nixon, after President Richard M. Nixon resigned. The days of investigation shown for Nixon/Ford are the combined total found for the entire Watergate investigation across the two administrations.*

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3. Chart: Cost Per Day of Each Investigation in 2017 Dollars



**The Watergate investigation continued into the administration of Gerald R. Ford Jr., who was also investigated during the investigation of Nixon, after President Richard M. Nixon resigned. The amount shown per day of investigation for Nixon/Ford is the combined total found for the entire Watergate investigation across the two administrations.*

III. A Summary of the Differences Among the Titles Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel

The titles for those tasked with conducting special investigations involving presidents and their administrations are sometimes used interchangeably in the media and other resources, but there is a difference among the official titles “Special Prosecutor,” “Independent Counsel” and “Special Counsel.”

This is a brief summary of the history behind the titles for those leading investigations and how each is appointed, and does not delve into the details of the many steps that take place before a special investigation is initiated, such as an internal Department of Justice or FBI investigation or a conclusion by a congressional committee that recommends a more thorough investigation.

Prior to reform in 1978, presidents themselves were among the officials able to appoint and fire special investigators, such as President Ulysses S. Grant who appointed two and fired one during the “Whiskey Ring” scandal.³⁷ Those investigators held the title of “Special Prosecutor.”

In Watergate, Attorney General-designate Elliot L. Richardson³⁸ appointed the special prosecutor and when President Richard M. Nixon initiated the firing of the special prosecutor through the attorney general’s office, Richardson resigned.³⁹

After Watergate, the method for choosing a special prosecutor was changed so that the president could not fire the person working on the investigation. The *Ethics in Government Act* of 1978, initially meant to last for five years but extended until 1999, was enacted. Under the rules of this statute, a three-judge panel assigned to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia⁴⁰ was now responsible for appointing a special prosecutor who would be independent

³⁷ Sarah Pruitt, “The Whiskey Ring and America’s First Special Prosecutor,” History.com, May 18, 2017

³⁸ George Lardner, Jr., “Cox Is Chosen as Special Prosecutor,” WashingtonPost.com, May 19, 1973

³⁹ Jeffrey Frank, “Comey’s Firing Is—and Isn’t—Like Nixon’s Saturday Night Massacre,” May 9, 2017

⁴⁰ PUBLIC LAW 95-521--OCT. 26, 1978, 95th Congress, 92 Stat. 1824, online at Senate.gov, Oct. 26, 1978

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from reprisal by the White House. Although the attorney general could not choose the investigator, they could still apply for the appointment of a special prosecutor under the statute.⁴¹

The title of special prosecutor was retained until the subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management “proposed that the name ‘special prosecutor’ be changed to ‘independent counsel’ to remove the pejorative connotation of the investigation.”⁴² In the Ethics in Government Act Amendments of 1982, “Special Prosecutor” was officially changed to “Independent Counsel.”⁴³

Even though an independent counsel could now be appointed independent from the executive branch, attorneys general on at least two occasions directly appointed investigators who served as “Special Counsel,” which was still a viable choice under the statute and did not require approval by the three-judge panel.

An independent counsel could only be terminated by the attorney general, other than “impeachment and conviction,” for “good cause, physical or mental disability ... or any other condition that substantially impairs the performance of such independent counsel’s duties.”⁴⁴

The 1978 statute was amended, allowed to expire, and reauthorized over two decades until it finally expired in 1999. At that point, the Department of Justice established authority for the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel for special investigations. If the Attorney General is recused, the Acting Attorney General may make the appointment.⁴⁵ Under the Department of Justice regulations, a special counsel may only be removed “for misconduct, dereliction of duty, incapacity, conflict of interest, or for other good cause, including violation of Departmental policies.”⁴⁶

⁴¹ PUBLIC LAW 95-521--OCT. 26, 1978, 95th Congress, 92 Stat. 1824, online at Senate.gov, Oct. 26, 1978

⁴² “Special Prosecutor Provisions of Ethics In Government Act of 1978,” A Report Prepared by the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management of the Committee on Governmental Affairs United States Senate, 97th Congress, 1st Session, online at NCJRS.com, October 1981

⁴³ PUBLIC LAW 97-409—Jan. 3, 1983, 97th Congress, 96 stat. 2039, GPO.gov, Jan. 3, 1983

⁴⁴ US Code, “28 U.S. Code § 596 - Removal of an independent counsel; termination of office,” Law.Cornell.edu, accessed on March 26, 2018

⁴⁵ Congressional Research Service, “Special Counsel Investigations: History, Authority, Appointment and Removal,” sgp.fas.org, March 13, 2019

⁴⁶ Legal Information Institute, “28 CFR § 600.7 – Conduct and accountability,” www.law.cornell.edu (accessed March 31, 2022)

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As of the date of this report, the current title for the investigator appointed for special investigations involving the White House directly or indirectly, like Robert Mueller's investigation into the Trump campaign/Russia collusion, is "Special Counsel." Constitutional scholars have disagreed on the question of whether a president can fire the special counsel. Some believe that a president could ask the Attorney General (or whoever appointed the Special Counsel) to fire the appointed investigator. If that person refused, the president could continue firing subordinates until he or she found someone willing to comply.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Robert Farley, "Can Trump Fire Mueller?," factcheck.org, June 15, 2017

IV. Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel Investigations Involving US Presidents and their Admins

1. Richard M. Nixon: Watergate

Start / End [# of Days]	Total Cost of Investigation	Name of Investigator / Title	Appointed By
A.	B.	C.	D.
5/19/1973 ⁴⁸ / 10/20/1973 ⁴⁹ [155]	\$6,795,000 ⁵⁰	Archibald Cox / First Special Prosecutor of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force [WSPF]	Attorney General-desi gnate Elliot L. Richardson
11/5/1973 ⁵¹ / 10/25/1974 ⁵² [355]	July 1, 1974, to June 30, 1976 \$4,848,000 ⁵³	Leon Jaworski / Second Special Prosecutor after Cox fired by Nixon	Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork ⁵⁴
10/26/1974 ⁵⁵ / 10/1/1975 ⁵⁶ [341]	\$11,643,000 for both Nixon and Ford admin investigations	Henry S. Ruth Jr. / Third Special Prosecutor after Jaworski	Attorney General William B. Saxbe ⁵⁷

⁴⁸ George Lardner, Jr., "Cox Is Chosen as Special Prosecutor," WashingtonPost.com, May 19, 1973

⁴⁹ "IN RE SUBPOENA TO NIXON," Cite as 360 F.Supp. 1 (1973), Law.Justia.com, Aug. 29, 1973

⁵⁰ The data for the "best estimates of the Watergate cost," White House note, Office of Communications, NixonLibrary.com, June 7, 1974

⁵¹ "Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report," online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁵² "Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report," online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁵³ Total from "Watergate Appropriations During Ford Administration," chart in Section IV of this report

⁵⁴ "Bork Chooses Jaworski As Watergate Prosecutor," TheCrimson.com, Nov. 2, 1973

⁵⁵ "Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report," online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁵⁶ "Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force," online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

⁵⁷ *The Courier-Journal* text online at Newspapers.com, Oct. 24, 1974

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Start / End [# of Days]	Total Cost of Investigation	Name of Investigator / Title	Appointed By
A.	B.	C.	D.
<p>10/17/1975⁵⁸ / 6/20/1977⁵⁹ [613]</p> <p>The Nixon investigations ran from May 19, 1973, to June 20, 1977, for a total of 1,464⁶⁰ days.</p>	<p>The total cost of the Nixon investigations in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$47,094,590.10.⁶¹</p>	<p>Charles F. C. Ruff / Fourth and Final Special Prosecutor of the WSPF</p>	<p>Sworn in by Attorney General Edward H. Levi⁶²</p>

1. Summary of the Investigation

- a. After agents of the Committee to Re-Elect the President (CRP) broke into the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate building on June 17, 1972, and were convicted of “conspiracy, burglary, and wiretapping charges,”⁶³ allegations that high-level Nixon Administration officials might be connected eventually led to the appointment of Archibald Cox as special prosecutor on May 19, 1973, and the establishment of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force on May 25, 1973, the same day Archibald Cox was sworn in,⁶⁴ to June 20, 1977,⁶⁵ the firing of the first of four special prosecutors referred to as the “Saturday Night Massacre,”⁶⁶ and the subsequent resignation of President Richard M. Nixon.

⁵⁸ “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

⁵⁹ “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

⁶⁰ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

⁶¹ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The “US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018.”

⁶² Jerry Oppenheimer, “Special Prosecutor Was Just Fading Away When ...” *The Washington Star*, online at FordLibraryMuseum.gov, Digitized from Box 53 of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, item dated Oct. 3, 1996

⁶³ “Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report,” online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁶⁴ Federal Register, Volume 38, Number 106, June 4, 1973, online at LOC.gov, Page 14688, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁶⁵ “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

⁶⁶ Andrew Cohen, “The Sad Legacy of Robert Bork,” TheAtlantic.com, Dec. 19, 2012

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2. Special Prosecutor/Independent Counsel/Special Counsel

- a. Archibald Cox – First Special Prosecutor of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force
- b. Leon Jaworski – Second Special Prosecutor after Cox fired by Nixon
- c. Henry S. Ruth Jr. – Third Special Prosecutor after Jaworski
- d. Charles F. C. Ruff – Fourth and final Special Prosecutor of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force

3. Dates of Investigation

- a. START (Watergate investigation) – On May 19, 1973, Attorney General-designate⁶⁷ Elliot L. Richardson appointed Archibald Cox Watergate special prosecutor.⁶⁸ On May 25, 1973,⁶⁹ Richardson established Office of Watergate Special Prosecution Force and set out "Duties and Responsibilities of the Special Prosecutor."⁷⁰ Those duties included “full authority” in several matters including investigation of “allegations involving the President.”
- b. END (Cox investigation) – The Cox investigation ended on Oct. 20, 1973.⁷¹ Prior to the firing, on July 23, 1973, Cox, acting on behalf of the June 1972 grand jury, issued a subpoena to Nixon⁷² for tapes and documents.⁷³ On Oct. 19, 1973, Nixon ordered that Cox “seek no further litigation” but on Oct. 20, Cox refused the president’s request and was fired by Acting Attorney General Robert Bork, referred to as the “Saturday Night Massacre.”⁷⁴ The Watergate Special Prosecution Force was taken over by the Department of Justice Criminal Division.⁷⁵ On Nov. 1, 1973, Bork announced the second special prosecutor, and re-established the Watergate Special Prosecution Force on Nov. 2, 1973.⁷⁶

⁶⁷ George Lardner, Jr., “Cox Is Chosen as Special Prosecutor,” *WashingtonPost.com*, May 19, 1973

⁶⁸ George Lardner, Jr., “Cox Is Chosen as Special Prosecutor,” *WashingtonPost.com*, May 19, 1973

⁶⁹ *Federal Register*, Volume 38, Number 106, June 4, 1973, online at *LOC.gov*, Page 14688, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁷⁰ *Federal Register*, Volume 38, Number 106, June 4, 1973, online at *LOC.gov*, Page 14688, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁷¹ “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at *Babel.hathitrust.org*, June 1977

⁷² “IN RE SUBPOENA TO NIXON, Cite as 360 F.Supp. 1,” online at *Law.Justia.com*, Aug. 29, 1973

⁷³ “Watergate [files]: Battle for the Tapes – Timeline,” *FordLibraryMuseum.gov*, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁷⁴ Andrew Cohen, “The Sad Legacy of Robert Bork,” *TheAtlantic.com*, Dec. 19, 2012

⁷⁵ “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at *Babel.hathitrust.org*, June 1977

⁷⁶ “Department of Justice. Watergate Special Prosecution Force. 5/25/1973-6/20/1977,” *Catalog.Archives.gov*, accessed on March 29, 2018

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- c. START (Jaworski investigation) – On Nov. 5, 1973,⁷⁷ Leon Jaworski resumed the investigation.⁷⁸ On August 8, 1974, Nixon addressed the nation with intent to resign.⁷⁹ On August 9, 1974, Nixon resigned.⁸⁰
- d. END (Jaworski investigation) – Oct. 25, 1974,⁸¹ was Jaworski’s effective date of his resignation that he announced on Oct. 12, 1974.⁸² A third special prosecutor took over.
- e. START (Ruth investigation) – On Oct. 26, 1974,⁸³ Henry S. Ruth Jr., succeeded Jaworski.⁸⁴
- f. END (Ruth investigation) – On Oct. 1, 1975,⁸⁵ Ruth leaves and Charles F. C. Ruff was named fourth special prosecutor.⁸⁶
- g. START (Ruff investigation) – On Oct. 17, 1975, Ruff was sworn in as part-time director.⁸⁷ During his time as special prosecutor, Ruff conducted an investigation into alleged misuse of political contributions by President Ford, and on Oct. 14, 1976, Ruff concluded that there was no evidence of wrongdoing.⁸⁸
- h. END of WATERGATE TASK FORCE – On June 20, 1977, Ruff finished his service as the last special prosecutor of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force and issued a final report dated June 1977.⁸⁹

⁷⁷ “Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report,” online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁷⁸ “Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report,” online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁷⁹ Andrew Glass, “Nixon announces intention to resign, Aug. 8, 1974,” Politico.com, Aug. 8, 2017

⁸⁰ Matt Schudel, “Henry S. Ruth, special prosecutor during Watergate probe, dies at 80,” WashingtonPost.com, March 24, 2012

⁸¹ “Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report,” online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁸² “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

⁸³ “Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report,” online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁸⁴ “Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report,” online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁸⁵ “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

⁸⁶ “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

⁸⁷ “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

⁸⁸ Nicholas Horrock, “Prosecutor Reports No Violation By Ford On Political Funds,” NYTimes.com, Oct. 15, 1976

⁸⁹ “Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force,” online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

4. Conclusion

- a. Sept. 8, 1974 - President Gerald Ford issued Nixon a full pardon.⁹⁰
- b. Oct. 26, 1978 - The Watergate investigation prompted a reform in appointments of special prosecutors in independent counsel investigations with the passage of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978.⁹¹

"This ultimately became known as United States Office of the Independent Counsel, and was used for major investigations like Iran-Contra during the Reagan years and Whitewater during the Clinton years, which ultimately led to Clinton's impeachment."⁹²

"Since then, 21 special investigations have been launched, with seven leading to convictions and five still active [1999]. The total cost passed \$166 million through the last fiscal year."⁹³

- c. The reform act expired in 1999:

"Congress in 1978 passed a law in the wake of Watergate that allowed the appointment of 'independent counsel' by a three-judge panel of a Washington, D.C. appeals court at the request of the attorney general, but the law had five-year sunset provisions and was ultimately allowed to expire in 1999, according to the Congressional Research Service."⁹⁴

⁹⁰ "Richard Nixon's Resignation Letter And Gerald Ford's Pardon," ArchivesFoundation.org

⁹¹ Jim Mokhiber, "A Brief History of the Independent Counsel Law," PBS Frontline, PBS.org, May 1998

⁹² Alana Abramson, "Robert Mueller Was Just Named a Special Counsel. What's That?," Time.com, May 17, 2017

⁹³ "From Watergate to Whitewater: History of the independent counsel," CNN.com, June 30, 1999

⁹⁴ Phil Helsel, "'Special Counsel' Less Independent Than Under Expired Watergate-Era Law," NBCNews.com, May 17, 2017

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5. Cost of Investigation

- a. The Watergate investigation cost \$6.5 million or more, according to the *Washington Post* article titled “Watergate Cost Tops \$6 Million,” May 21, 1974.⁹⁵

“The White House office does not maintain accounting or other records which would permit us to obtain precise information on the costs incurred on Watergate,’ GAO said. To make its estimate, GAO said, it examined White House payroll records and interviewed staff members to determine the percentage of their time devoted to Watergate.”

- b. The “best estimates of the Watergate cost,”⁹⁶ according to a June 7, 1974, White House memo from the Office of Communication, with data broken down into the following categories (approximately \$400,000 is noted for White House Legal Staff):

	Staff Members	Lawyers	Funds
Senate Watergate Committee	42 (the Earvin committee had a staff of 92 at its peak)	17	\$2 million
House Judiciary Committee	100	43	\$1.17 million
Special Prosecutor’s Office	80	38	\$2.8 million
Grand Juries	N/A	N/A	\$225,000
GSA Audit of Nixon Homes	N/A	N/A	\$100,000
GAO Audit of Nixon Homes	N/A	N/A	\$100,000
White House Legal Staff (listed separately)	21	13	\$400,000
Total			\$6,795,000 million

- c. From the “Watergate Special Prosecution Force Report” Charter Documents in Appendix J:

⁹⁵ Article scanned and posted on JFK.hood.edu, hood.edu is the web address for Hood College in Maryland, and the copy of the article is part of The Harold Weisberg Archive, Digital Collection

⁹⁶ White House Office of Communications, NixonLibrary.gov, June 7, 1974

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“Budget. The Special Prosecutor will be provided with such funds and facilities to carry out his responsibilities as he may reasonably require. He shall have the right to submit budget requests for funds, positions, and other assistance, and such requests shall receive the highest priority.”⁹⁷

⁹⁷ “Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report,” online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

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2. Gerald R. Ford Jr.: Continuation of Watergate

The Watergate investigation continued into the administration of Gerald R. Ford Jr. after Nixon resigned. The following special prosecutors overlapped into the Ford administration from the Nixon administration.

Start / End [# of Days] A.	Total Cost of Investigation B.	Name of Investigator / Title C.	Appointed By D.
11/5/1973 ⁹⁸ / 10/25/1974 ⁹⁹ [355]		Leon Jaworski / Second Special Prosecutor after Cox fired by Nixon	Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork ¹⁰⁰
10/26/1974 ¹⁰¹ / 10/1/1975 ¹⁰² [341]		Henry S. Ruth Jr. / Third Special Prosecutor after Jaworski	Attorney General William B. Saxbe ¹⁰³
10/17/1975 ¹⁰⁴ / 6/20/1977 ¹⁰⁵ [613] Linked to Watergate investigation in #1	Linked to Watergate investigation in #1	Charles F. C. Ruff / Fourth and Final Special Prosecutor of the WSPF	Sworn in by Attorney General Edward H. Levi ¹⁰⁶

⁹⁸ "Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report," online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

⁹⁹ "Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report," online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹⁰⁰ "Bork Chooses Jaworski As Watergate Prosecutor," TheCrimson.com, Nov. 2, 1973

¹⁰¹ "Watergate Special Prosecution Force: Report," online at Archive.org, undated, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹⁰² "Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force," online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

¹⁰³ *The Courier-Journal* text online at Newspapers.com, Oct. 24, 1974

¹⁰⁴ "Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force," online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

¹⁰⁵ "Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force," online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

¹⁰⁶ Jerry Oppenheimer, "Special Prosecutor Was Just Fading Away When ...," *The Washington Star*, online at FordLibraryMuseum.gov, Digitized from Box 53 of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, item dated Oct. 3, 1996

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

1. Summary of the Investigation

- a. Although Watergate started under the Nixon administration and was initiated against President Nixon, the investigation extended into the Ford administration. On Oct. 17, 1975, Charles F.C. Ruff was sworn in as part-time director, and he was the last of four special prosecutors on the Watergate investigation.¹⁰⁷ During his time as special prosecutor, Ruff conducted an investigation into alleged misuse of political contributions by Ford, and on Oct. 14, 1976, Ruff concluded that there was no evidence of wrongdoing.¹⁰⁸

2. Cost of Investigation

- a. During the Ford administration, the following amount was found to be appropriated for the Watergate investigation:¹⁰⁹

Watergate Appropriations During Ford Administration	
July 1, 1974 to June 1975 appropriations ¹¹⁰	\$2,804,000
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976 appropriations ¹¹¹	\$2,044,000
Total	\$4,848,000

¹⁰⁷ "Final report / Watergate Special Prosecution Force," online at Babel.hathitrust.org, June 1977

¹⁰⁸ Nicholas Horrock, "Prosecutor Reports No Violation By Ford On Political Funds," *NYTimes.com*, Oct. 15, 1976

¹⁰⁹ For the year 1977, when the Watergate investigation concluded: "In addition to funds provided under this Act, unobligated balances from the amount appropriated for the Watergate Special Prosecution Force in 1976 shall remain available until September 30, 1977." Public Law 94-362, July 14, 1976

¹¹⁰ Public Law 93-433, Oct. 5, 1974

¹¹¹ Public Law 94-121, Oct. 21, 1975

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

3. James E. Carter: Carter Peanut Warehouse

Start / End [# of Days] A.	Total Cost of Investigation B.	Name of Investigator / Title C.	Appointed By D.
3/23/1979 ¹¹² / 10/16/1979 ¹¹³ The Carter investigation ran from March 23, 1979, to Oct. 16, 1979, for a total of 208¹¹⁴ days.	\$360,000 ¹¹⁵ The total cost of the Carter investigation in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$1,215,471.07. ¹¹⁶	Paul J. Curran / Special Counsel	Attorney General Griffin Bell appointed a special counsel and was rebuked for not seeking an independent counsel for the investigation

1. Summary of the Investigation

- a. The Carter Peanut Warehouse, partially owned by President James E. Carter, was investigated and exonerated in 1979 of allegations that National Bank of Georgia loans made to the Carter family business¹¹⁷ were “questionable” and some may have been used to fund the 1976 Carter presidential campaign.¹¹⁸ Attorney General Griffin Bell’s decision to appoint a “Special Counsel” instead of an independent

¹¹² Paul J. Curran, Special Counsel, “Investigation of Carter’s Warehouse and the National Bank of Georgia Report to the Congress of the United States,” Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: 10/16/79 [1]; Container 135, JimmyCarterLibrary.gov, Oct. 16, 1979

¹¹³ Paul J. Curran, Special Counsel, “Investigation of Carter’s Warehouse and the National Bank of Georgia Report to the Congress of the United States,” Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: 10/16/79 [1]; Container 135, JimmyCarterLibrary.gov, Oct. 16, 1979

¹¹⁴ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

¹¹⁵ John F. Berry and Ted Gup, “Inquiry Clears Carter Family's Peanut Business,” WashingtonPost.com, Oct. 17, 1979

¹¹⁶ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The “US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018.”

¹¹⁷ Sen. Ted Stevens, “Ethics in Government: A View From the Senate,” online at ScholarlyCommons.law.hofstra.edu, Hofstra Law Review, Volume 16, Issue 2, Article 2, 1988, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹¹⁸ Walter Pincus, “Special Prosecutors: Looking Back 15 Years,” WashingtonPost.com, Jan. 9, 1994

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“Special Prosecutor”¹¹⁹ under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978¹²⁰ (passed in response to President Nixon’s firing of the first Watergate special prosecutor), was questioned by members of Congress. Sen. Robert C. Byrd said the public, the press and Congress “must be certain that Mr. Curran is given the requisite independence,”¹²¹ and Sen. Charles H. Percy said it was “troublesome that he could be fired by the Attorney General without cause and with no legal recourse.”¹²² In April, Curran was given full “prosecuting authority”¹²³ similar to the Watergate special prosecutors.

2. Special Prosecutor/Independent Counsel/Special Counsel

a. Paul J. Curran - Special Counsel

3. Dates of Investigation

- a. START – March 23, 1979,¹²⁴ is the start date Curran cited in his report on the investigation, while a United States Department of Justice news release stated that Bell announced the appointment on March 20, 1979.¹²⁵
- b. END – On Oct. 16, 1979,¹²⁶ Curran presented his report¹²⁷ to President of the Senate Walter F. Mondale.

4. Conclusion

¹¹⁹ People Staff, “G.O.P. Doubters Aside, Peanut Case Prosecutor Paul Curran Has the Courage of His Convictions,” People.com, April 9, 1979

¹²⁰ “Public Law 95-521” of Oct. 26, 1978, 95th Congress, cited as “Ethics in Government Act of 1978.” Title VI, Chapter 39 is titled “Special Prosecutor” and states that the Attorney General may terminate the “Special Prosecutor “only for extraordinary impropriety, physical disability, mental incapacity, or any other condition that substantially impairs the performance of such special prosecutor’s duties.” Online at Law.UPenn.edu, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹²¹ “Congressional Record – Senate,” March 22, 1979, Page 5943

¹²² “Congressional Record – Senate,” March 22, 1979, Page 5943

¹²³ “Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files,” WaPo.com, April 9, 1979

¹²⁴ Paul J. Curran, Special Counsel, “Investigation of Carter’s Warehouse and the National Bank of Georgia Report to the Congress of the United States,” Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: 10/16/79 [1]; Container 135, JimmyCarterLibrary.gov, Oct. 16, 1979

¹²⁵ U.S. Department of Justice News Release, Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: 3/20/79 [1]; Container 110, JimmyCarterLibrary.gov, March 20, 1979

¹²⁶ Paul J. Curran, Special Counsel, “Investigation of Carter’s Warehouse and the National Bank of Georgia Report to the Congress of the United States,” Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: 10/16/79 [1]; Container 135, JimmyCarterLibrary.gov, Oct. 16, 1979

¹²⁷ Paul J. Curran, Special Counsel, “Investigation of Carter’s Warehouse and the National Bank of Georgia Report to the Congress of the United States,” Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: 10/16/79 [1]; Container 135, JimmyCarterLibrary.gov, Oct. 16, 1979

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- a. From the “White House Statement on the Findings of a Special Investigation” dated Oct. 16, 1979:

“...We said from the very beginning of the investigation that no moneys were diverted ... an[d] the report shows our statements were absolutely correct. We also said from the beginning that we would cooperate fully with the investigation, and the report shows we did exactly that.”¹²⁸

- b. Curran, in his Oct. 16, 1979, report, noted that the president could have faced penalty for false statements made during his deposition:

“On September 5, 1979 in the White House, I and my staff conducted a four hour deposition under oath of President Jimmy Carter.* [Footnote: Jimmy Carter was subject to prosecution under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 and 1623 for any false statements made during the course of his deposition.]”¹²⁹

5. Cost of Investigation

- a. \$162,809 is the cost of the investigation reported by “FY 2008 Performance Budget Independent Counsel Congressional Justification,” from Justice.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018.
- b. This report uses the cost reported in a WashingtonPost.com article dated Oct. 17, 1979: “Curran estimated that the investigation cost the government about \$360,000.”¹³⁰

¹²⁸ Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Jimmy Carter, 1979 ... Book II – June 23 to December 31, 1979, Books.Google.com

¹²⁹ Paul J. Curran, Special Counsel, “Investigation of Carter’s Warehouse and the National Bank of Georgia Report to the Congress of the United States,” report online at JimmyCarterLibrary.gov, Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: 10/16/79 [1]; Container 135, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹³⁰ John F. Berry and Ted Gup, “Inquiry Clears Carter Family's Peanut Business,” WashingtonPost.com, Oct. 17, 1979

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

4. Ronald W. Reagan: Iran-Contra

Start / End [# of Days] A	Total Cost of Investigation B.	Name of Investigator / Title C.	Appointed By D.
12/19/1986 ¹³¹ / 8/4/1993 ¹³² The Reagan investigation ran from Dec. 19, 1986, to Aug. 4, 1993, for a total of 2,420¹³³ days.	\$47,873,400 ¹³⁴ The total cost of the Reagan investigation in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$81,098,533.51. ¹³⁵	Lawrence Walsh / Independent Counsel / Special Prosecutor	A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia for independent counsels

1. Summary of the Investigation

- a. According to the National Archives, “Records of Lawrence Walsh”:

"In October and November 1986, two secret U.S. Government operations were publicly exposed, potentially implicating Reagan administration officials in illegal activities: the provision of assistance to the military activities of Nicaraguan contra rebels during an October 1984 to October 1986 prohibition on such aid, and the sale of U.S. arms to Iran in contravention of stated U.S. policy and in possible violation of arms-export controls. In late November 1986, Reagan administration officials announced that some of the proceeds from the sale of U.S. arms to Iran had been diverted to the contras."¹³⁶

¹³¹ “Records of Lawrence Walsh relating to Iran/Contra,” NationalArchives.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹³² “53. The Iran-Contra Report, August 4 1993 [Excerpts],” The Encyclopedia of Middle East Wars, Page 161

¹³³ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

¹³⁴ “CRS Report for Congress: Independent Counsels Appointed Under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Costs and Results of Investigations,” Congressional Research Service (CRS) report from EveryCRSreport.com, digital.library.unt.edu, Updated June 8, 2006

¹³⁵ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The “US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018.”

¹³⁶ “Records of Lawrence Walsh relating to Iran/Contra,” NationalArchives.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

2. Special Prosecutor/Independent Counsel/Special Counsel

- a. Lawrence Walsh - Independent Counsel / Special Prosecutor

3. Dates of Investigation

- a. START – Dec. 19, 1986¹³⁷

"The 'Front Door' investigation, started by Federal Bureau of Investigation in November [26] of 1986, was transferred when Lawrence Walsh was appointed Independent Counsel on December 19, 1986."¹³⁸

- b. END – On Aug. 4, 1993,¹³⁹ Lawrence Walsh submitted his final report to the House of Representatives.¹⁴⁰ In the final report¹⁴¹ Walsh wrote: “The criminal investigation of [then Vice President George H.W.] Bush was regrettably incomplete.” President H.W. Bush had pardoned many defendants in the Iran-Contra investigation. In Chapter 27 of the final report, Walsh said of Reagan:

“It was concluded that President Reagan's conduct fell well short of criminality which could be successfully prosecuted. Fundamentally, it could not be proved beyond a reasonable doubt that President Reagan knew of the underlying facts of Iran/contra that were criminal or that he made criminal misrepresentations regarding them.”

¹³⁷ “Records of Lawrence Walsh relating to Iran/Contra,” NationalArchives.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹³⁸ “Records of Lawrence Walsh relating to Iran/Contra,” NationalArchives.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹³⁹ “53. The Iran-Contra Report, August 4 1993 [Excerpts],” The Encyclopedia of Middle East Wars, Books.Google.com, Page 161

¹⁴⁰ “53. The Iran-Contra Report, August 4 1993 [Excerpts],” The Encyclopedia of Middle East Wars, Books.Google.com, Page 161

¹⁴¹ Lawrence E. Walsh, Independent Counsel, “Final Report Of The Independent Counsel For Iran/Contra Matters: Volume I: Investigations and Prosecutions,” FAS.org, Aug. 4, 1993

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4. Conclusion

- a. In 1987, a requirement was made for tracking expenditures:

“In 1987, Public Law 100-202 established a permanent, indefinite appropriation within Justice to fund expenditures by independent counsels. Independent counsels are required to report their expenditures from the appropriation for each 6-month period in which they have operations.”¹⁴²

- b. March 16, 1988 – Indictments:

“On March 16, 1988, the grand jury handed down a 23 count indictment against [John] Poindexter, [Oliver] North, [Albert] Hakim, and Richard Secord.”¹⁴³

- c. Dec. 24, 1992 – Bush pardons:

“On December 24, 1992, President George H.W. Bush granted pardons to six defendants in the Iran-Contra Affairs. The defendants were Elliott Abrams, a former assistant secretary of state for Central America; former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane; former CIA officials Duane Clarridge, Alan Fiers, and Clair George; and former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.”¹⁴⁴

5. Cost of Investigation

- a. \$47,873,400 was the reported cost of the investigation according to “CRS Report for Congress: Independent Counsels Appointed Under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Costs and Results of Investigations.”¹⁴⁵

¹⁴² “FINANCIAL AUDIT: Independent Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended September 30, 1997,” GAO.gov, March 1998

¹⁴³ “Records of Lawrence Walsh relating to Iran/Contra,” NationalArchives.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹⁴⁴ “Understanding the Iran-Contra Affairs: The 1992 Pardons,” Brown.edu, accessed on March 24, 2018

¹⁴⁵ “CRS Report for Congress: Independent Counsels Appointed Under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Costs and Results of Investigations,” Congressional Research Service (CRS) report from EveryCRSreport.com, digital.library.unt.edu, Updated June 8, 2006.

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5. George H.W. Bush: BNL Scandal/Iraqgate

Start / End [# of Days] A.	Total Cost of Investigation B.	Name of Investigator / Title C.	Appointed By D.
10/16/1992 ¹⁴⁶ / 12/8/1992 ¹⁴⁷ The H.W. Bush Investigation ran from Oct. 16, 1992, to Dec. 8, 1992, for a total of 54 ¹⁴⁸ days.	\$372,392 ¹⁴⁹ The total cost of the H.W. Bush investigation in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$650,611.03. ¹⁵⁰	Frederick B. Lacey Special Counsel / Independent Counsel	Attorney General William P. Barr

1. Summary of the Investigation

- a. In an investigation also known as “Iraqgate”¹⁵¹ or “Iraq-gate,”¹⁵² on Oct. 16, 1992, Attorney General William P. Barr appointed retired federal judge Frederick B. Lacey “to investigate the Bush Administration's handling of a billion-dollar bank-fraud case involving illegal loans to Iraq.”¹⁵³ In December, “Lacey was named special counsel in charge of investigating both matters, and he determined that no federal crime had been committed in either case.”¹⁵⁴

¹⁴⁶ Ronald J. Ostrow and Douglas Frantz, “Ex-Judge to Investigate Iraq Loans : Probe: Frederick Lacey of New Jersey will explore role of Justice Department and CIA in scandal. Democrats criticize attorney general's plan.,” *Articles.LATimes.com*, Oct. 17, 1992

¹⁴⁷ Times Wire Service, “Counsel Wraps Up Report on Iraq Loan Case Investigation,” *Articles.LATimes.com*, Dec. 9, 1992

¹⁴⁸ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

¹⁴⁹ “Summary of U.S. Department of Justice expenses for the investigation by Special Counsel Frederick B. Lacey of the conduct of the U.S. Department of Justice relating to the Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro,” dated April 6, 1993, printed in the *Congressional Record-House*, June 8, 1993, Page 12135

¹⁵⁰ Calculated by *USInflationCalculator.com* on March 21, 2018. The “US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018.”

¹⁵¹ “Iraqgate,” according to a *WashingtonPost.com* article by Richard Harwood of April 16, 1994, titled “The Myth of Iraqgate,” was a term coined by *U.S. News & World Report*.

¹⁵² The Editors of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, “Iraqgate,” *Britannica.com*, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹⁵³ Elaine Sciolino, “ATTORNEY GENERAL NAMES PROSECUTOR IN IRAQ-LOANS CASE,” *NYTimes.com*, Oct. 17, 1992

¹⁵⁴ Sonam Sheth, “Obama is the only president since Nixon who didn't face an independent investigation,” *BusinessInsider.com*, Oct. 23, 2017

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2. Special Prosecutor/Independent Counsel/Special Counsel

- a. Frederick B. Lacey - Special Counsel / Independent Counsel

3. Dates of Investigation

- a. START – Oct. 16, 1992¹⁵⁵
- b. END – Dec. 8, 1992¹⁵⁶

4. Conclusion

"Mr. Barr's refusal to seek a judicially appointed prosecutor in the case involving the Atlanta branch of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro followed the recommendation of Frederick B. Lacey, his own counsel. Judge Lacey had submitted a two-volume report that found 'no reasonable grounds to believe further investigation is warranted with respect to the matters involved here.' Calls Accusations 'Nonsense' "¹⁵⁷

5. Cost of Investigation

- a. \$372,392¹⁵⁸ according to the "Summary of U.S. Department of Justice expenses for the investigation by Special Counsel Frederick B. Lacey of the conduct of the U.S. Department of Justice relating to the Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro," reported in the Congressional Record-House, June 8, 1993.

¹⁵⁵ Elaine Sciolino, "Attorney General Names Prosecutor in Iraq-Loans Case," NYTimes.com, Oct. 17, 1992

¹⁵⁶ Times Wire Service, "Counsel Wraps Up Report on Iraq Loan Case Investigation," Articles.LATimes.com, Dec. 9, 1992

¹⁵⁷ David Johnston, "U.S. Will Not Seek New Investigation on Loans to Iraq," NYTimes.com, Dec. 10, 1992

¹⁵⁸ "Summary of U.S. Department of Justice expenses for the investigation by Special Counsel Frederick B. Lacey of the conduct of the U.S. Department of Justice relating to the Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro," dated April 6, 1993, printed in the Congressional Record-House, June 8, 1993, Page 12135

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6. William J. Clinton: Whitewater

Start / End [# of Days] A.	Total Cost of Investigation B.	Name of Investigator / Title C.	Appointed By D.
<p>The Clinton investigations ran from Jan. 20, 1994, to March 23, 2004, for a total of 3,716¹⁵⁹ days.</p> <p>1/20/1994¹⁶⁰ / 10/6/1994¹⁶¹ [260]</p>	<p>\$6,073,000¹⁶²</p>	<p>Robert Fiske / Special Counsel</p> <p>(succeeded by Starr and left the investigation on Oct. 6, 1994)</p>	<p>Attorney General Janet Reno appointed Fiske, making him ineligible to continue his post when an independent counsel was requested</p>
<p>8/5/1994¹⁶³ / 10/18/1999¹⁶⁴ [1,901]</p>	<p>\$55,105,992¹⁶⁵ for the Starr, Ray, Thomas investigations.</p>	<p>Kenneth Starr / First independently appointed Independent Counsel</p>	<p>A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia for independent counsels selected Starr</p>

¹⁵⁹ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

¹⁶⁰ "Whitewater Timeline," Academic.Brooklyn.cuny.edu, accessed on March 24, 2018

¹⁶¹ "GAO/AIMD – 97-24R – Independent Counsels," GAO.gov, Dec. 20, 1996 ["Kenneth W. Starr was appointed August 5, 1994 ... After completing a transition of operations ... Fiske terminated his appointment on October 6, 1994."]

¹⁶² "GAO/AIMD – 97-24R – Independent Counsels: Independent Counsels Schedule of Expenditures For the Period 6/11/85 – 3/31/96," GAO.gov, Dec. 20, 1996

¹⁶³ "GAO/AIMD – 97-24R – Independent Counsels," online at GAO.gov, Dec. 20, 1996

¹⁶⁴ "Starr cites 'intense politicization' in resigning post," CNN.com, Oct.18, 1999

¹⁶⁵ "FY 2008 Performance Budget Independent Counsel Congressional Justification," online at Justice.gov, as of Aug. 1, 2006

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10/18/1999 ¹⁶⁶ / 3/12/2002 ¹⁶⁷ [877]	Total cost of the Whitewater investigation was \$61,178,992	Robert W. Ray / Second Independent Counsel	A three-judge panel¹⁶⁸ of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia for independent counsels
3/12/2002 ¹⁶⁹ / 3/23/2004 ¹⁷⁰ [743]	The total cost of the Clinton investigation in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$83,358,502.05. ¹⁷¹	Julie F. Thomas / Third and Final Independent Counsel	Sworn in after Ray resigned ¹⁷²

1. Summary of the Investigation

- a. “Whitewater” is the blanket title for a series of investigations that started with “any possible violations of law relating in any way to President Clinton and the First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's relationship with Madison Guarantee Savings and Loan Association, the Whitewater Development Corporation, or Capital Management Services.”¹⁷³ Attorney General Janet Reno¹⁷⁴ appointed Robert B. Fiske, Jr. to lead the investigation, which also included the death of Vince Foster. Fiske found no link between Whitewater and Foster’s death.¹⁷⁵ When Clinton signed the Independent Counsel Reauthorization Act of 1994, a panel of judges independently chose Kenneth Starr to continue the Whitewater investigation that

¹⁶⁶ “New Independent Counsel Prosecutor Robert Ray was sworn in today to replace Kenneth Starr as the independent counsel investigating the president and the first lady. Judge Starr resigned recently. Mr. Ray spoke briefly with reporters.” C-SPAN.com, Oct. 18, 1999

¹⁶⁷ GAO report number GAO-04-1014, “Financial Audit: Independent and Special Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 2004,” online at GAO.gov, Sept. 30, 2004

¹⁶⁸ “The judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit’s Division for Appointing Independent Counsels,” according to the “Official Statement From Robert Ray on Whitewater,” ABCNews.go.com, Sept. 20, 2000

¹⁶⁹ GAO report number GAO-04-1014, “Financial Audit: Independent and Special Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 2004,” online at GAO.gov, Sept. 30, 2004

¹⁷⁰ GAO report number GAO-04-1014, “Financial Audit: Independent and Special Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 2004,” online at GAO.gov, Sept. 30, 2004

¹⁷¹ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The “US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018.”

¹⁷² Terry Frieden, “Whitewater independent counsel Robert Ray resigns,” CNN.com, March 12, 2002

¹⁷³ “Independent Counsels Appointed Under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Costs and Results of Investigations,” online at EveryCRSreport.com, June 8, 2006

¹⁷⁴ “Fiske Named Special Counsel In Clinton Probe,” Articles.ChicagoTribune.com, Jan. 20, 1994

¹⁷⁵ “Clinton Vs. Starr: A 'Definitive' Account,” Fresh Air, NPR.org, Feb. 16, 2010

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ultimately included “Travelgate” on March, 22, 1996¹⁷⁶; Filegate, on June 21, 1996¹⁷⁷; and the Monica Lewinsky affair on Jan. 16, 1998.¹⁷⁸ President Bill Clinton was impeached on Dec. 19, 1998, in relation to the Lewinsky affair.¹⁷⁹

2. Special Prosecutor/Independent Counsel/Special Counsel

- a. Robert B. Fiske, Jr. – Attorney General-appointed Special Counsel
- b. Kenneth Starr – First Independent Counsel under the Independent Counsel Reauthorization Act of 1994
- c. Robert Ray – Independent Counsel after Starr stepped down
- d. Julie F. Thomas – Independent Counsel who succeeded Ray to close out Whitewater investigation¹⁸⁰

3. Dates of Investigation

- a. START (Fiske investigation) – On Jan. 20, 1994, Fiske was appointed Whitewater special counsel at Clinton’s request on Jan. 12, 1994.¹⁸¹ At a press briefing with Attorney General Janet Reno, where she announced Fiske’s appointment, Fiske defined his charter as broad, and potentially covering other matters, including the death of Vince Foster, which Fiske ruled a suicide on July 1, 1994.¹⁸²

“The specific language authorizes me to investigate whether any individuals or entities have committed a violation of any federal criminal law relating in any way to President William Jefferson Clinton's or Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton's relationships with Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association, Whitewater Development Corporation, or Capital Management Services.”¹⁸³

¹⁷⁶ “Whitewater prosecutor to look into 'Travelgate',” CNN.com, March 22, 1996

¹⁷⁷ Linda Feldmann, “What's Behind Latest White House Scandal?: FBI Filegate,” CSmonitor.com, June 21, 1996

¹⁷⁸ “A Chronology: Key Moments In The Clinton-Lewinsky Saga,” CNN.com, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹⁷⁹ “1998: President Clinton impeached,” History.com, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹⁸⁰ “Independent Counsels Appointed Under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Costs and Results of Investigations,” online at EveryCRSreport.com, June 8, 2006

¹⁸¹ “Whitewater Timeline,” Academic.Brooklyn.cuny.edu, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹⁸² David Von Drehle and Howard Schneider, “Foster's Death a Suicide,” WashingtonPost.com, July 1, 1994

¹⁸³ Transcript, “Weekly Press Briefing With Attorney General and Robert B. Fiske Jr., Former U.S. Attorney General in New York and Independent Prosecutor – Designate Department of Justice,” CNN, Justice.gov, Jan. 20, 1994

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- b. END (Fiske investigation) – On Oct. 6, 1994, Fiske stepped away from the investigation. He had been replaced by Kenneth W. Starr on Aug. 5, 1994, after Clinton signed the Independent Counsel Reauthorization Act of 1994 and Reno was denied her request to have Fiske re-appointed “by a three-judge U.S. Court of Appeals.”¹⁸⁴ According to the court’s order, Fiske was replaced because he was appointed by the “incumbent Administration” and needed to be replaced for the “appearance of independence.”¹⁸⁵ During his tenure, Fiske conducted the first ever deposition of “a sitting president and first lady.”¹⁸⁶
- c. START (Starr investigation) – On Aug. 5, 1994, Starr was appointed to continue the Whitewater investigation “by a three-judge U.S. Court of Appeals.”¹⁸⁷
- d. END (Starr investigation) / START (Ray investigation) – On Oct. 18, 1999, “Kenneth Starr steps down as independent counsel. Robert Ray, an experienced federal prosecutor, is sworn in as his successor.”¹⁸⁸
- e. END (Ray investigation) / START (Thomas investigation) – On March 12, 2002, Ray resigned, and Julie F. Thomas became the last independent counsel on the Whitewater investigation.¹⁸⁹ On March 20, 2002,¹⁹⁰ Ray released his final report on Whitewater that exonerated the Clintons.¹⁹¹
- f. END (Thomas investigation) – On March 23, 2004, the office was terminated.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁴ Associated Press, “Text of Order Appointing Starr,” Articles.LATimes.com, Aug. 6, 1994

¹⁸⁵ Associated Press, “Text of Order Appointing Starr,” Articles.LATimes.com, Aug. 6, 1994

¹⁸⁶ “Chronology: From Hope, Arkansas to the White House,” PBS.org, accessed on March 21, 2018

¹⁸⁷ Associated Press, “Text of Order Appointing Starr,” Articles.LATimes.com, Aug. 6, 1994

¹⁸⁸ “A Whitewater Chronology,” WSJ.com, May 28, 2003

¹⁸⁹ GAO report number GAO-04-1014, “Financial Audit: Independent and Special Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 2004,” online at GAO.gov, Sept. 30, 2004

¹⁹⁰ Pete Yost, “Final Whitewater report rips Clintons, but finds no evidence of wrongdoing,” JournalTimes.com, March 21, 2002

¹⁹¹ Pete Yost, “Final Whitewater report rips Clintons, but finds no evidence of wrongdoing,” JournalTimes.com, March 21, 2002

¹⁹² GAO report number GAO-04-1014, “Financial Audit: Independent and Special Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 2004,” online at GAO.gov, Sept. 30, 2004

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4. Conclusion

a. Oct. 8, 1998

"The House votes 258-176 to open an impeachment inquiry into the President, only the third such proceeding in U.S. history. Thirty-one Democrats join Republicans in voting for the inquiry."¹⁹³

b. June 30, 1999 – The Independent Counsel law expires during the Whitewater/Lewinsky investigations.¹⁹⁴

"Now responsibility for investigating official misconduct reverts back to the Justice Department where it was during Watergate and before. The attorney general will have the power to both hire and fire special counsels."¹⁹⁵

"With the congressional impeachment proceedings against Clinton resulting from the Lewinsky investigation, it was the Democrats' turn to rail against the independent counsel law, pointing to the fact that special investigations have no limits on cost, length and scope, and saying Starr was far overzealous in pursuing the Clintons."¹⁹⁶

c. Jan. 19, 2001 – President Clinton admits making false statements and surrenders law license for five years.¹⁹⁷

d. Jan. 20, 2001

"Hours before ending his term in office, President Clinton issues 140 pardons. Included on the list is the Clintons' former Whitewater Development Co. partner, Susan McDougal."¹⁹⁸

¹⁹³ "A Whitewater Chronology," WSJ.com, May 28, 2003

¹⁹⁴ "A Whitewater Chronology," WSJ.com, May 28, 2003

¹⁹⁵ "From Watergate to Whitewater: History of the independent counsel," CNN.com, June 30, 1999

¹⁹⁶ "From Watergate to Whitewater: History of the independent counsel," CNN.com, June 30, 1999

¹⁹⁷ "A Whitewater Chronology," WSJ.com, May 28, 2003

¹⁹⁸ "A Whitewater Chronology," WSJ.com, May 28, 2003

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5. Cost of Investigation

- a. According to a WashingtonPost.com article, the Whitewater investigation total was \$70 million dollars.¹⁹⁹
- b. The Independent Counsel FY 2008 Performance Budget sets the cost at \$55,105,992²⁰⁰ for the Starr, Ray, Thomas investigations:

“Violation of any federal criminal law relating to what has become known as the ‘Whitewater Affair’, President Clinton’s relationship with a former White House intern, the White House travel office, misuse of FBI files, and other matters -- several defendants involved.”²⁰¹
- c. Other estimates:

“According to reports by GAO, the cost of Independent Counsels Thomas’, Ray’s and Starr’s portion of the investigation, through September 30, 2005, has been \$73,597,345. In addition, GAO has reported that Robert B. Fiske, Jr., spent \$6,073,000, on the earlier ‘Whitewater’ investigation prior to Mr. Starr’s appointment.”²⁰²
- d. For this report, the \$55,105,992 for the Starr, Ray, and Thomas investigations was added to the \$6,073,000 investigation, for a total cost of \$61,178,992 for the Whitewater investigations.

¹⁹⁹ Callum Borchers, “Special prosecutors are a big deal. Their results sometimes aren’t.” WashingtonPost.com, May 17, 2017

²⁰⁰ “FY 2008 Performance Budget Independent Counsel Congressional Justification,” Justice.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

²⁰¹ “FY 2008 Performance Budget Independent Counsel Congressional Justification,” Justice.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

²⁰² “Independent Counsels Appointed Under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Costs and Results of Investigations - Updated June 8, 2006,” online at Digital.Library.unt.edu, accessed on March 21, 2018

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7. George W. Bush: CIA Leak/Plamegate²⁰³

Start / End [# of Days] A.	Total Cost of Investigation B.	Name of Investigator / Title C.	Appointed By D.
12/30/2003 ²⁰⁴ / 12/11/2007 The W. Bush investigation ran from Dec. 30, 2003, to Dec. 11, 2007, for a total of 1,443²⁰⁵ days.	\$2.58 million ²⁰⁶ The total cost of the W. Bush investigation in March 13, 2017, dollars was \$3,050,079.58.²⁰⁷	Patrick Fitzgerald / Special Counsel / Special Prosecutor	Deputy Attorney General James Comey

1. Summary of the Investigation

- a. After CIA agent Valerie Plame was identified by name in a syndicated column,²⁰⁸ on Sept. 30, 2003, the Justice Department launched an investigation. On Dec. 30, 2003, Patrick J. Fitzgerald was appointed as special counsel to investigate the leak.²⁰⁹ High-level George W. Bush admin officials were investigated, and “the investigation also touched on presidential adviser Karl Rove,”²¹⁰ eventually resulting in the prosecution of Vice President Richard B. Cheney’s Chief of Staff I. Lewis “Lacey” Libby,²¹¹ and the subsequent commutation of his perjury and

²⁰³ Multiple sources for this description of the investigation including NBCnews.com, Time.com, RollingStone.com, and MotherJones.com

²⁰⁴ Department of Justice Press Conference transcript, “Appointment of special prosecutor to oversee investigation into alleged leak of CIA agent identity and recusal of Attorney General Ashcroft from the investigation,” online at FAS.org, Dec. 30, 2003

²⁰⁵ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

²⁰⁶ “Leak probe cost \$2.6 million,” ChicagoTribune.com, April 1, 2008

²⁰⁷ Calculated by USInflationCalculator.com on March 21, 2018. The “US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on March 13 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through February 2018.”

²⁰⁸ “Timeline: The CIA Leak Case,” NPR.org, July 2, 2007

²⁰⁹ Department of Justice Press Conference transcript, “Appointment of special prosecutor to oversee investigation into alleged leak of CIA agent identity and recusal of Attorney General Ashcroft from the investigation,” FAS.org, Dec. 30, 2003

²¹⁰ “Leak probe cost \$2.6 million,” ChicagoTribune.com, April 1, 2008

²¹¹ “Cheney's top aide indicted; CIA leak probe continues,” CNN.com, Oct. 29, 2005

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obstruction of justice convictions from President Bush (Libby received a full pardon from President Donald Trump on April 13, 2018).²¹²

2. Special Prosecutor/Independent Counsel/Special Counsel

- a. Patrick Fitzgerald – Special / Counsel / Special Prosecutor

3. Dates of Investigation

- a. START – On Dec. 30, 2003, Deputy Attorney General James Comey announced the appointment of Patrick J. Fitzgerald as special counsel in charge of the “investigation into alleged leak of CIA agent identity.” Attorney General John Ashcroft had recused himself “based on the totality of the circumstances and the facts and evidence developed at this stage of the investigation,” according to Comey during a Dec. 30, 2003, Department of Justice press conference.²¹³ On June 24, 2004, Fitzgerald questioned Bush for more than an hour, but Bush was not put under oath.²¹⁴
- b. END – On Dec. 11, 2007, “the administration official [Libby] dropped his appeal of his convictions.”²¹⁵

“The activities of the special counsel were, for all practical purposes concluded as of March 2008, but the office of the special counsel will continue for limited purposes, such as responding to congressional requests for information.”²¹⁶

4. Conclusion

- a. On why he wouldn't issue a final report, in 2005 Fitzgerald said:

“I think what people may be confused about is that reports used to be issued by independent counsels. And one of the complaints about the independent counsel statute was that an ordinary citizen,

²¹² Olivia B. Waxman, “Why Scooter Libby Didn't Get a Presidential Pardon Until Just Now,” Time.com, April 13, 2018

²¹³ Department of Justice Press Conference transcript, “Appointment of special prosecutor to oversee investigation into alleged leak of CIA agent identity and recusal of Attorney General Ashcroft from the investigation,” FAS.org, Dec. 30, 2003

²¹⁴ Susan Schmidt, “Bush Interviewed About CIA Leak: President Not Under Oath in Discussing Release of Covert Officer's Name,” WashingtonPost.com, June 25, 2004.

²¹⁵ “On December 11, 2007 the administration official dropped his appeal of his convictions. This matter is now concluded for all practical purposes, but the office of special counsel will continue for limited purposes, such as responding to Congressional requests for information,” according to a GAO Report dated March 2008 titled “FINANCIAL AUDIT: Special Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended September 30, 2007.”

²¹⁶ “Audit of Special Counsel Expenditures for the 6 Months Ended March 31, 2008: GAO-08-1122R: Published: Sep 24, 2008. Publicly Released: Sep 24, 2008.”, GAO.gov, Sept. 24, 2008

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when investigated, they're charged with a crime or they're not; they're not charged with a crime, people don't talk about it. Because of the interest in making sure that -- well, there's an interest in independent counsels to making sure those investigations were done thoroughly but then people ended up issuing reports for people not charged. And one of the criticisms leveled was that you should not issue reports about people who are not charged with a crime. That statute lapsed. I'm not an independent counsel, and I do not have the authority to write a report, and, frankly, I don't think I should have that authority. I think we should conduct this like any other criminal investigation: charge someone or be quiet."²¹⁷

- b. Oct. 28, 2005 - Libby is indicted.²¹⁸ On June 5, 2007, Libby is sentenced to 30 months in prison for perjury and obstruction of justice, and resigns as Cheney's chief of staff.²¹⁹ Bush commuted his sentence on July 2, 2007.²²⁰ Libby received a full pardon from President Donald Trump on April 13, 2018.²²¹

5. Cost of Investigation

- a. \$2.58 million,²²² according to a ChicagoTribune.com article on April 1, 2008.

²¹⁷ "Transcript of Special Counsel Fitzgerald's Press Conference," WashingtonPost.com, Oct. 28, 2005

²¹⁸ "Cheney's top aide indicted; CIA leak probe continues," CNN.com, Oct. 29, 2005

²¹⁹ Nina Totenberg, "Lewis Libby Sentenced to 30 Months in Prison," NPR.org, June 5, 2007

²²⁰ Kate Phillips, "Bush Commutes Libby's Sentence," NYTimes.com, July 2, 2007

²²¹ Olivia B. Waxman, "Why Scooter Libby Didn't Get a Presidential Pardon Until Just Now," Time.com, April 13, 2018

²²² "Leak probe cost \$2.6 million," ChicagoTribune.com, April 1, 2008

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8. Donald J. Trump: Trump-Russia Collusion Probe

Start / End [# of Days] A.	Total Cost of Investigation B.	Name of Investigator / Title C.	Appointed By D.
<p style="text-align: center;">5/17/2017²²³ / 3/22/2019²²⁴</p> <p>The Trump investigation ran from May 17, 2017.²²⁵ to March 22, 2019, (when Robert S. Mueller submitted his report)²²⁶ for a total of 675²²⁷ days.</p>	<p>The final reported cost of the investigation from May 17, 2017, to May 31, 2019, was \$31,773,751, for a total of 745 days of DOJ expenditure reporting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Robert S. Mueller III / Special Counsel</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Acting Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein</p>

1. Summary of the Investigation

- a. Acting Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein appointed Robert S. Mueller III special counsel to conduct an investigation into, among other things, “any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump...”²²⁸

2. Special Prosecutor/Independent Counsel/Special Counsel

- a. Robert S. Mueller III – Special Counsel

3. Dates of Investigation

- a. START – On May 17, 2017, Robert S. Mueller III was appointed by Acting Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein to serve as special counsel.²²⁹

²²³ “Special Counsel’s Office: Related Court Documents,” United States Department of Justice website Justice.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

²²⁴ “Now what? Mueller ends the Russia investigation,” APNews.com, March 22, 2019

²²⁵ “Special Counsel’s Office: Related Court Documents,” United States Department of Justice website Justice.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

²²⁶ “Read William Barr’s Letter to Congress on the Mueller Report,” NYTimes.com, March 22, 2019

²²⁷ Total number of days for investigations calculated online: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>

²²⁸ “Order No. 3915-2017: Appointment of Special Counsel to Investigate Russian Interference with the 2016 Presidential Election and Related Matters,” dated May 17, 2017, by Rod J. Rosenstein

²²⁹ “Special Counsel’s Office: Related Court Documents,” Justice.gov, accessed on March 21, 2018

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- b. END – March 22, 2019, when Mueller “delivered his final report to Attorney General William Barr.”²³⁰
4. Related Court Documents as of April 4, 2019,²³¹ from the United States Department of Justice website:
- a. **U.S. v. Roger Jason Stone, Jr. (1:19-cr-18, District of Columbia):** Roger Jason Stone, Jr., 66, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was arrested in Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 25, 2019, following an indictment by a federal grand jury on Jan. 24, 2019, in the District of Columbia. The indictment, which was unsealed upon arrest, contains seven counts: one count of obstruction of an official proceeding, five counts of false statements, and one count of witness tampering.
 - b. **U.S. v. Michael Cohen (1:18-cr-850, Southern District of New York):** Michael Cohen of New York, New York, pleaded guilty on Nov. 29, 2018, to making false statements to the U.S. Congress in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001 (a)(2). Cohen was sentenced on December 12, 2018, to serve two months in prison and pay a \$50,000 fine.
 - c. **U.S. v. Paul J. Manafort, Jr. (1:17-cr-201, District of Columbia):** Paul J. Manafort, Jr., of Alexandria, Va., pleaded guilty on September 14, 2018, to a superseding criminal information filed ... in the District of Columbia, which includes conspiracy against the United States (conspiracy to commit money laundering, tax fraud, failing to file Foreign Bank Account Reports and Violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act, and lying and misrepresenting to the Department of Justice) and conspiracy to obstruct justice (witness tampering). On March 13, 2019, Manafort was sentenced to serve 73 months in prison, with 30 months to run concurrent with his sentence in the Eastern District of Virginia.
 - d. **U.S. v. Viktor Borisovich Netyksho, et al (1:18-cr-215, District of Columbia):** A federal grand jury in the District of Columbia returned an indictment on July 13, 2018, against 12 Russian nationals for their alleged roles in computer hacking conspiracies aimed at interfering in the 2016 U.S. elections. The indictment charges 11 of the defendants with conspiracy to commit computer crimes, eight counts of aggravated identity theft, and conspiracy to launder money. Two defendants are charged with a separate conspiracy to commit computer crimes.
 - e. **U.S. v. Konstantin Kilimnik (1:17-cr-201, District of Columbia):** A federal grand jury in the District of Columbia returned a third superseding indictment on June 8, 2018, against Konstantin Kilimnik, of Moscow, Russia. Kilimnik is charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of justice.

²³⁰ “Now what? Mueller ends the Russia investigation,” APNews.com, March 22, 2019

²³¹ “Special Counsel’s Office: Related Court Documents,” United States Department of Justice website Justice.gov, accessed on April 4, 2019

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- f. **U.S. v. Richard W. Gates III (1:17-cr-201, District of Columbia):** Richard W. Gates III of Richmond, Va., pleaded guilty on Feb. 23, 2018, to a superseding criminal information that includes: count one of the indictment, which charges conspiracy against the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 371 (which includes conspiracy to violate 26 U.S.C. 7206(1), 31 U.S.C. 5312 and 5322(b), and 22 U.S.C. 612, 618(a)(1), and 618(a)(2)), and a charge of making false statements to the Special Counsel's Office and FBI agents, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001.
- g. **U.S. v. Paul J. Manafort, Jr., and Richard W. Gates III (1:18-cr-83, Eastern District of Virginia):** Paul J. Manafort, Jr., of Alexandria, Va., and Richard W. Gates III, of Richmond, Va., were indicted by a federal grand jury on Feb. 22, 2018, in the Eastern District of Virginia. The indictment contains 32 counts: 16 counts related to false individual income tax returns, seven counts of failure to file reports of foreign bank and financial accounts, five counts of bank fraud conspiracy, and four counts of bank fraud. On March 1, 2018, the court granted a motion to dismiss without prejudice the charges against Gates, following his guilty plea in a related case in the District of Columbia (1:17-cr-201). On Aug. 21, 2018, a federal jury found Manafort guilty on eight counts: counts 1-5, subscribing to a false individual income tax return for tax years 2010-2014; count 12, failure to file reports of foreign bank and financial accounts for year 2012; count 25, bank fraud; and count 27, bank fraud. The court declared a mistrial on 10 counts (counts 11, 13-14, 24, 26, 28-32). As part of his plea agreement on Sept. 14, 2018, Manafort admitted his guilt of the remaining counts against him in this case. On March 7, 2019, Manafort was sentenced to 47 months in prison and ordered to pay a \$50,000 fine.
- h. **U.S. v. Alex van der Zwaan (1:18-cr-31, District of Columbia):** Alex van der Zwaan, of London, pleaded guilty on Feb. 20, 2018, to making false statements to FBI agents, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001. Van der Zwaan was sentenced on April 3, 2018, to serve 30 days in prison and pay a \$20,000 fine.
- i. **U.S. v. Internet Research Agency, et al (1:18-cr-32, District of Columbia):** A federal grand jury in the District of Columbia returned an indictment on Feb. 16, 2018, against 13 Russian nationals and three Russian entities accused of violating U.S. criminal laws in order to interfere with U.S. elections and political processes. The indictment charges all of the defendants with conspiracy to defraud the United States, three defendants with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud, and five defendants with aggravated identity theft.
- j. **U.S. v. Richard Pinedo, et al (1:18-cr-24, District of Columbia):** Richard Pinedo, of Santa Paula, Calif., pleaded guilty on Feb. 12, 2018, to identity fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1028. On Oct. 10, 2018, Pinedo was sentenced to serve six months in prison, followed by six months of home confinement, and ordered to complete 100 hours of community service.

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- k. **U.S. v. Michael T. Flynn (1:17-cr-232, District of Columbia):** Lieutenant General Michael T. Flynn (Ret.), of Alexandria, Va., pleaded guilty on Dec. 1, 2017, to making false statements to FBI agents, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001.
 - l. **U.S. v. George Papadopoulos (1:17-cr-182, District of Columbia):** George Papadopoulos, of Chicago, Illinois, pleaded guilty on Oct. 5, 2017, to making false statements to FBI agents, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001. The case was unsealed on Oct. 30, 2017. On Sept. 7, 2018, Papadopoulos was sentenced to serve 14 days in prison, pay a \$9,500 fine, and complete 200 hours of community service.
5. Conclusion: Excerpts from Attorney General William P. Barr’s “main findings of the special counsel’s two-year investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.”²³²

“The Special Counsel's investigation did not find that the Trump campaign or anyone associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia in its efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election. As the report states: ‘[T]he investigation did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities.’ ... The Special Counsel therefore did not draw a conclusion - one way or the other – as to whether the examined conduct constituted obstruction. Instead, for each of the relevant actions investigated, the report sets out evidence on both sides of the question and leaves unresolved what the Special Counsel views as ‘difficult issues’ of law and fact concerning whether the President's actions and intent could be viewed as obstruction. The Special Counsel states that ‘while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.’”

²³² “Read Attorney General William Barr’s Summary of the Mueller Report,” NYTimes.com, March 24, 2019

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6. Cost of Investigation

- a. Total reported costs from May 17, 2017, to May 31, 2019: \$31,773,751.
- b. Costs include those reported by the Special Counsel’s Office, and additional costs included in the Statement of Expenditures reports as “DOJ [Department of Justice] component expenses.”

Reporting Period	Special Counsel Cost to Date	DOJ Component Expenses	Total Investigation Costs
May 17, 2017, to Sept. 30, 2017	\$3,213,695 ²³³	\$3,546,000 ²³⁴	\$6,759,695
Oct. 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018	\$4,506,624 ²³⁵	\$5,476,000 ²³⁶	\$9,982,624
April 1, 2018, through Sept. 30, 2018	\$4,567,533 ²³⁷	\$3,906,000 ²³⁸	\$8,473,533
Oct. 1, 2018, through May 31, 2019	\$4,120,899 ²³⁹	\$2,437,000 ²⁴⁰	\$6,557,899

[Note: Barack H. Obama was never the subject of a special investigation.

There have been nine presidential administrations since the beginning of Watergate to the date of this report, from Nixon to Trump. The only presidential administration that was not part of an investigation by a special prosecutor/independent counsel/special counsel was that of President Barack H. Obama.]

²³³ “Special Counsel’s Office Statement of Expenditures, May 17, 2017 to September 30, 2017,” U.S. Department of Justice, Justice.gov, accessed on March 22, 2018

²³⁴ “Another \$3.5 million has separately been spent by law enforcement personnel working on the investigation but who do not directly report to Mueller, DOJ said.” Laura Jarrett, “Russia probe cost \$7 million over 5 months, DOJ says,” CNN.com, Dec. 5, 2017

²³⁵ “U.S. Department of Justice Special Counsel’s Office Statement of Expenditures October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018” U.S. Department of Justice, Justice.gov, May 31, 2018

²³⁶ “Although neither legally required nor reported in prior Special Counsels’ Statements of Expenditures, DOJ components that support the SCO were asked to track expenditures attributable to the investigations. The expenditures for this period totaled \$5,476,000, which approximates expenditures the components would have incurred for the investigations irrespective of the existence of the SCO.” From “U.S. Department of Justice Special Counsel’s Office Statement of Expenditures October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018” U.S. Department of Justice, Justice.gov, May 31, 2018

²³⁷ “U.S. Department of Justice Special Counsel’s Office Statement of Expenditures April 1, 2018, through September 30, 2018,” U.S. Department of Justice, Justice.gov, accessed on April 3, 2019

²³⁸ “Although neither legally required nor reported in prior Special Counsels’ Statements of Expenditures, DOJ components that support the SCO were asked to track expenditures attributable to the investigations. The expenditures for this period totaled \$3,906,000, which approximates expenditures the components would have incurred for the investigations irrespective of the existence of the SCO.” From “U.S. Department of Justice Special Counsel’s Office Statement of Expenditures April 1, 2018, through September 30, 2018,” U.S. Department of Justice, Justice.gov, accessed on April 3, 2019

²³⁹ “Special Counsel’s Office Statement of Expenditures, October 1, 2018, through May 31, 2019,” U.S. Department of Justice, Justice.gov, accessed on Aug. 8, 2019

²⁴⁰ “Special Counsel’s Office Statement of Expenditures, October 1, 2018, through May 31, 2019,” U.S. Department of Justice, Justice.gov, accessed on Aug. 8, 2019

V. Conclusion

The Mueller investigation took 675 days, which does not put it in the top three for the most days for a special presidential investigation: 3,716 for Whitewater; 2,420 for Iran-Contra; and 1,464 for Watergate. Although reporting of costs for each investigation varies and they are not apple to apple equivalents, the Mueller investigation into the Trump campaign was the fourth overall costliest; by per-day costs, it was first.

The metrics from the charts and information in this work suggest that the time and costs of the various presidential investigations don't follow any discernible or clear patterns. Given the complexities of some of the investigations, questions not covered in this report may emerge from it, such as:

- Was the \$83 million for the Clinton investigation too much or was the \$650,000 spent on the H.W. Bush investigation too little?
- Were the 3,716 days spent on the Clinton investigations more important to our country than the 1,443 days spent on the W. Bush investigation?
- Were all or some of the investigations politically motivated at the start?
- Were any of the investigations extended or underfunded or cut short for political reasons?
- Should the counsel on the investigations be investigated? If so, by whom?

We hope this report will add a bit of sunlight to the somewhat arcane world of special prosecutor / independent counsel / special counsel investigations.

Your thoughts, comments or criticisms of this report would be appreciated.

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

VI. Appendix

The following is a list of the other 23 special investigations by a special prosecutor/independent counsel/special counsel that were not part of the research on the eight special investigations in this report; those investigations included possible offense(s) tied directly or indirectly to the president in office, and the investigation of President Gerald R. Ford which began with the investigation of President Nixon.

The 23 special investigations in this Appendix are either prior to 1973, or when the investigations seemingly involved personal behavior or actions not tied directly or indirectly to administration business or action.

	U.S. Presidential Administration under which the Special Investigation Started	Summary of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel investigations that are either prior to 1973, or when the investigations seemingly involved personal behavior or actions not tied directly or indirectly to administration business or action.
	A.	B.
1.	Coolidge	1924: Teapot Dome Scandal: Inquiry into alleged improper federal oil reserve leases made during the Harding administration.
2.	Garfield	1881: President James A. Garfield appointed William A. Cook as special prosecutor/special counsel ²⁴¹ to investigate alleged bribery of post office officials and postal routes, which was known as the Star Route Scandals. ²⁴²
3.	Roosevelt	1903: President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Charles J. Bonaparte and Holmes Conrad as special prosecutors to investigate alleged bribery involving post office officials . ²⁴³
4.	Roosevelt	1903: U.S. Attorney General Philander Knox appointed Francis J. Heney as special prosecutor to investigate alleged land fraud deals that became known as the Oregon Land Fraud Trials . ²⁴⁴

²⁴¹ Benjamin Harris Brewster, "Testimony of Attorney-general Brewster ..." Books.Google.com

²⁴² Callum Borchers, "Special prosecutors are a big deal. Their results sometimes aren't." WashingtonPost.com, May 17, 2017

²⁴³ Steven G. Calabresi and Christopher S. Yoo, "The Unitary Executive: Presidential Power from Washington to Bush," Books.Google.com

²⁴⁴ "What is a special counsel? Timeline of appointments," FoxNews.com, May 18, 2017

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

	U.S. Presidential Administration under which the Special Investigation Started	Summary of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel investigations that are either prior to 1973, or when the investigations seemingly involved personal behavior or actions not tied directly or indirectly to administration business or action.
	A.	B.
5.	Truman	1952: President Harry S. Truman appointed Special Assistant Attorney General Newbold Morris as special prosecutor ²⁴⁵ to look into corruption at the IRS , but Morris started with an investigation into Department of Justice officials, which resulted in his firing by Attorney General J. Howard McGrath. ²⁴⁶
6.	Carter	1979: A three-judge federal panel ²⁴⁷ appointed Arthur H. Christy as special prosecutor to investigate Hamilton Jordon , Carter’s chief of staff, for alleged cocaine use. ²⁴⁸
7.	Carter	1980: A three-judge federal panel appointed Gerald Gallinghouse as special prosecutor to investigate Timothy Kraft , Carter’s national campaign manager, for alleged cocaine use. ²⁴⁹
8.	Reagan	1981: A three-judge federal panel appointed Leon Silverman as special prosecutor to investigate allegations of corruption against Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan . ²⁵⁰
9.	Reagan	1984: A three-judge federal panel appointed Jacob A. Stein as special prosecutor to investigate alleged corruption by Edwin Meese , who was being considered for attorney general. ²⁵¹
10.	Reagan	1986: A three-judge federal panel appointed James C. McKay as independent counsel to investigate allegations of false testimony

²⁴⁵ Donald C. Smaltz, “The Independent Counsel: A View From Inside,” Georgetown Law Journal, July, 1998, 86 Geo. L.J. 2307, Vol. 86, Number 6 Symposium: The Independent Counsel Act: From Watergate to Whitewater and Beyond Reflections, online at GovInfo.Library.unt.edu

²⁴⁶ Richard H. Rovere, “Mr. Morris Goes to Washington,” *The New Yorker*, April 19, 1952, online at NewYorker.com

²⁴⁷ “This three-judge panel, formally entitled the ‘Division for the Purpose of Appointing Independent Counsels,’ is better known today as simply the ‘Special Division.’” Jim Mokhiber, “What is the Special Division?” PBS.org, accessed on April 2, 2018. “Although the Special Division is in no way involved with the judicial work of the D.C. Circuit, Congress created the Special Division as a ‘division of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia...’” according to “The Judicial Council for the District of Columbia Circuit ... In the Matter of a Charge of Judicial Misconduct or Disability Judicial Council Complaint No. 99-1,” Cade.uscourts.gov, filed March 24, 1999

²⁴⁸ George Lardner Jr., Lee Lescaze, Edward Walsh, Martin Schram and John Kennedy, “Prosecutor Appointed in Jordan Case,” WashingtonPost.com, Nov. 30, 1979

²⁴⁹ Warren Brown, “Carter Aide Steps Down Amid Probe,” WashingtonPost.com, Sept. 15, 1980

²⁵⁰ Selwyn Raab, “Lawyer Named U.S. Prosecutor In Donovan Case,” NYTimes.com. “A version of this article appears in print on December 30, 1981, on Page A00001 of the National edition with the headline: Lawyer Named U.S. Prosecutor In Donovan Case.”

²⁵¹ Judi Hasson, “Former Watergate defense lawyer Jacob A. Stein was named...,” UPI.com, April 2, 1984

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	U.S. Presidential Administration under which the Special Investigation Started	Summary of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel investigations that are either prior to 1973, or when the investigations seemingly involved personal behavior or actions not tied directly or indirectly to administration business or action.
	A.	B.
		by Theodore Olson , a former assistant attorney general, regarding EPA documents. ²⁵²
11.	Reagan	1986: A three-judge federal panel appointed Whitney North Seymour Jr. as independent counsel to investigate allegations that Michael K. Deaver , former White House aide, was involved in improper lobbying practices. ²⁵³
12.	Reagan	1987: A three-judge federal panel appointed Carl S. Rauh as independent counsel ²⁵⁴ to investigate allegations involving the finances of Lawrence Wallace , former assistant attorney general. ²⁵⁵
13.	Reagan	1987: A three-judge federal panel appointed James McKay to investigate allegations of illegal lobbying by Lyn Nofziger , Reagan's former political director. ²⁵⁶
14.	H.W. Bush	1990: A three-judge federal panel appointed Arlin M. Adams as independent prosecutor to investigate allegations that Samuel Pierce , former HUD secretary, defrauded the government. ²⁵⁷
15.	H.W. Bush	1992: A three-judge federal panel appointed Joseph E. DiGenova as independent counsel ²⁵⁸ to investigate allegations that Janet G. Mullins , a H.W. Bush White House assistant, made false

²⁵² Philip Shenon, "Independent Counsel Is Named In Inquiry Over E.P.A. Documents," NYTimes.com. "A version of this article appears in print on April 25, 1986, on Page A00013 of the National edition with the headline: Independent Counsel Is Named In Inquiry Over E.P.A. Documents."

²⁵³ Howard Kurtz, "Ex-U.S. Attorney is Chosen to Head Deaver Investigation Justice Dept. Report on Allegations Released," WashingtonPost.com, May 30, 1986

²⁵⁴ "Carl S. Rauh," Carl Rauh Law Offices PLLC, RauhLaw.com, accessed on March 29, 2018

²⁵⁵ Associated Press, "Appointees Under Ethics Law," NYTimes.com, Archives for year 1988. "A version of this article appears in print on January 23, 1988, on Page 1001008 of the National edition with the headline: Appointees Under Ethics Law."

²⁵⁶ Leslie Maitland Werner, "Counsel Named In Nofziger Ethics Case," NYTimes.com. "A version of this article appears in print on February 3, 1987, on Page A00020 of the National edition with the headline: Counsel Named In Nofziger Ethics Case."

²⁵⁷ Philip Shenon, "Prosecutor Picked for Inquiry on Ex-H.U.D. Chief," NYTimes.com. "A version of this article appears in print on March 3, 1990, on Page 1001001 of the National edition with the headline: Prosecutor Picked for Inquiry on Ex-H.U.D. Chief."

²⁵⁸ "The Snagged Passport Inquiry," WashingtonPost.com, July 12, 1993

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

	U.S. Presidential Administration under which the Special Investigation Started	Summary of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel investigations that are either prior to 1973, or when the investigations seemingly involved personal behavior or actions not tied directly or indirectly to administration business or action.
	A.	B.
		statements and an investigation into the search of Bill Clinton's passport files. ²⁵⁹
16.	Clinton	1994: A three-judge federal panel appointed Donald C. Smaltz as independent counsel to investigate allegations between Agriculture Secretary Michael Espy and Tyson Foods Inc. ²⁶⁰
17.	Clinton	1995: A three-judge federal panel appointed David M. Barrett as independent counsel to investigate allegations that Henry G. Cisneros , head of HUD, lied to the FBI. ²⁶¹
18.	Clinton	1995: A three-judge federal panel appointed Daniel S. Pearson as independent counsel to investigate allegations of the illegal private financial dealings of Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown . ²⁶²
19.	Clinton	1996: A three-judge federal panel appointed Ralph I. Lancaster as special prosecutor to investigate allegations of bribery by Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman . ²⁶³
20.	Clinton	1996: A three-judge federal panel appointed Curtis Emery von Kann as independent counsel ²⁶⁴ to investigate allegations of improper fund-raising by Eli J. Segal when he was head of Americorps. ²⁶⁵
21.	Clinton	1998: A three-judge federal panel appointed Carol Elder Bruce as independent counsel to investigate allegations that Interior

²⁵⁹ Robert Pear, "Bush Aide Accused Of Lying In Inquiry On Clinton Search," NYTimes.com. "A version of this article appears in print on December 22, 1992, on Page A00001 of the National edition with the headline: Bush Aide Accused Of Lying In Inquiry On Clinton Search."

²⁶⁰ David Johnston, "Panel Names Chief Counsel For Inquiry In Espy Case," NYTimes.com. "A version of this article appears in print on September 10, 1994, on Page 1001006 of the National edition with the headline: Panel Names Chief Counsel For Inquiry In Espy Case."

²⁶¹ David Johnston, "Lawyer Linked to 80's HUD Scandal Is Named to Investigate Housing Chief," NYTimes.com. "A version of this article appears in print on May 25, 1995, on Page B00010 of the National edition with the headline: Lawyer Linked to 80's HUD Scandal Is Named to Investigate Housing Chief."

²⁶² Robert L. Jackson, "Ex-Prosecutor to Probe Ronald Brown Finances : Ethics: Special counsel Daniel Pearson will examine if commerce secretary filed inaccurate disclosure reports," LATimes.com, July 7, 1995

²⁶³ "Private Attorney Chosen To Investigate Alexis Herman," CNN.com, March 26, 1998

²⁶⁴ "Testimony of Honorable Curtis Emery von Kann Before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs," online PDF titled vonKann.pdf at Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs website, Senate.gov, dated Feb. 24, 1999

²⁶⁵ Associated Press, "Investigation Clears Former Clinton Aide," NYTimes.com, Dec. 20, 1997

Special Investigations Involving US Presidents Since 1973

	U.S. Presidential Administration under which the Special Investigation Started	Summary of Special Prosecutor / Independent Counsel / Special Counsel investigations that are either prior to 1973, or when the investigations seemingly involved personal behavior or actions not tied directly or indirectly to administration business or action.
	A.	B.
		Secretary Bruce E. Babbitt ²⁶⁶ made false statements regarding an Indian casino request. ²⁶⁷
22.	Clinton	1999: Attorney General Janet Reno appointed John C. Danforth ²⁶⁸ as special counsel to “head a review into events surrounding the assault on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas. ” ²⁶⁹
23.	Trump	2020: On December 1, 2020, Attorney General William Barr announced that he had appointed US Attorney John Durham as a special counsel in October. Durham was assigned to investigate the origins of the FBI investigation into claims that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election and whether the Trump campaign had any ties to those actions. Barr said the same regulations that were used in the Mueller investigation applied to Durham’s work. ²⁷⁰ The investigation was still in progress as of March 31, 2022.

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²⁶⁶ “Carol Elder Bruce,” Murphy & McGonigle, mmlawus.com, accessed on March 29, 2018

²⁶⁷ Robert L. Jackson and Ronald J. Ostrow, “Special Counsel Named in Babbitt Probe,” March 20, 1998

²⁶⁸ David Johnston, “Ex-Senator Picked By Reno To Head New Waco Inquiry,” NYTimes.com, Sept. 9, 1999

²⁶⁹ News Release, “Attorney General Reno Selects Former Senator John Danforth As Special Counsel To Head Waco Review,” Justice.gov, Sept. 9, 1999

²⁷⁰ Michael Balsamo and Eric Tucker, “Barr Appoints Special Counsel in Russia Probe Investigation,” apnews.com, December 1, 2020