

**U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT):** I'm going to ask you some easy questions. I take it from what you have said to a couple of my colleagues that while we may disagree on the meaning of Rule 6E as to getting the transcript, you would not object to this Committee seeking access to that transcript?

**Patel:** No.

**Blumenthal:** And you are aware that Rule 6E permits you to talk about your own testimony? Will you testify to this Committee, let's say in a classified setting, as to what you said to the Grand Jury?

**Patel:** Senator, I'm here to testify this Committee about everything I'm allowed to.

**Blumenthal:** You are allowed, under Rule 6E, to tell us what you said to the Grand Jury. This is, kind of, the first day that an assistant U.S. attorney goes to the first Grand Jury and is asked by a witness, "Can I talk about what I told you?" And the answer is yes. You know.

**Patel:** Senator, I will consult with Counsel and provide the appropriate answer.

**Blumenthal:** Let me just say, right to the point, Mr. Patel, what are you hiding? Why won't you tell us? You testified under a grant of immunity after taking the Fifth Amendment, as you're privileged to do. And the appearance here is you have something to hide. I submit to my colleagues on the Committee, we need to know what the Grand Jury testimony is. We need access to that second volume. And you have no objection to our seeking it, but you won't tell us, even in a classified, confidential setting. I think that position is disqualifying.

**Patel:** That was days of testimony, years ago. I don't have the ability to recollect that.

**Blumenthal:** Well, you can refresh your recollection, with access to the transcript.

**Patel:** With the transcript.

**Blumenthal:** Let me ask you another topic, and I really regret that you won't cooperate with us on the Grand Jury Testimony. Would you object to the firing of the Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz?

**Patel:** Would I object to it? That's the providence for the Attorney General to make. It's not something I would participate in.

**Blumenthal:** But you know of his work, it's been bipartisan, very thorough, competent, objective, impartial—he has been critical in Republican and Democratic administrations.

**Patel:** Yes.

**Blumenthal:** Won't you object to his firing?

**Patel:** I think he's done a great job, but it's not up to me to decide who stays and goes at the Department of Justice.

**Blumenthal:** But I'm not asking you to make the decision. I'm asking you whether you will take a stand, speak up, stand up in favor of a watchdog who has helped preserve the integrity of the Department of Justice and aligned himself against waste and fraud and abuse.

**Patel:** If the Attorney General asks me, yes—for my opinion.

**Blumenthal:** Volunteer it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.