



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1403**

October 10, 2019

Ms. Edith Chapin  
National Public Radio  
1111 North Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. Chapin,

I write to you to about a recent article published in response to my October 2 NPR interview with Michel Martin. The article, by NPR's Public Editor, Elizabeth Jensen, is titled "Setting The Record Straight After A Live Interview" and claims to correct "misinformation" I spread during my previous interview. In fact, it is Mrs. Jensen's article that spreads misinformation. The premise of the article, that I mischaracterized Adam Schiff's relationship with the whistleblower, is false. I request that NPR publish an article correcting her "correction."

After a rambling introduction that takes well over half of the article and repeatedly alludes to "errors" and "misinformation" in the October 2 interview, Mrs. Jensen finally presents her account of my supposed lie. Apparently, I am guilty of "incorrectly asserting that Schiff had "lied" about his role in the whistleblower complaint." Mrs. Jensen then adds "(I'm not going to repeat the entire incorrect statement.)", as if my claims were so vulgar and salacious as to be unworthy of reprint. If she had included my full remarks, well-informed readers would see that everything I said about Adam Schiff is true. And demonstrably so.

I stated the following three facts, which are taken directly from the interview transcript, and which Mrs. Jensen claims are false: "Adam Schiff knew about the whistleblower. The whistleblower came to Chairman Schiff and to the intelligence committee even though he lied about it and said that he'd never spoken directly to the whistleblower. We now know that he was part of orchestrating the whistleblower account to begin with."

On the same day I gave my NPR interview, the New York Times ran a story detailing how the whistleblower spoke with a House Intelligence Committee aide about the Trump-Zelensky phone call before the whistleblower filed an official complaint. The aide then shared that information with Adam Schiff. Thus, "Adam Schiff knew about the whistleblower."

During a September 17, interview on "Morning Joe" Adam Schiff stated, "We have not directly spoken with the whistleblower." This, as the New York Times report proved, is untrue. A fact-check by the Washington Post, hardly a conservative publication, gave Schiff's Morning

Joe claim “Four Pinocchios” –their highest rating for dishonesty. So, Chairman Schiff, like Mrs. Jensen, did, in fact, “lie about it.”

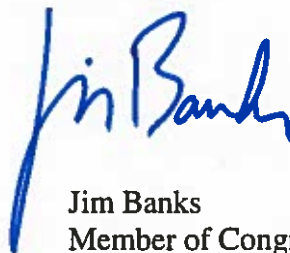
Regarding my final claim, the New York Times story reports that Chairman Schiff’s aide counseled the whistleblower to find legal representation and then file a formal complaint with an inspector general. In accordance with the staffer’s advice, the whistle-blower hired attorneys Andrew Bakaj and Mark Zaid, and submitted a complaint to Inspector General Michael Atkinson. Additionally, on September 10, 2019 Chairman Schiff sent a public letter to acting Director of National Intelligence, Joseph Maguire, calling for him to turn over a then little-known whistleblower complaint to the House Intelligence Committee. According to the New York Times report, Maguire’s staff was “puzzled” by the aggressive, public campaign, as such negotiations are typically conducted privately. The Chairman’s unusual decision was clearly motivated by his firsthand knowledge of the whistleblowers’ grievance. So, Chairman Schiff did play a clear role in “orchestrating the whistleblower account”.

In her introduction, Mrs. Jensen explains that the decision to book me as a guest was made to counter perceived bias in NPR’s impeachment coverage. At the time of my interview, NPR had interviewed 22 Democrat representatives on impeachment and only 11 Republicans. Mrs. Jensen goes on to blame NPR’s lopsided guest-list on reticent Republican lawmakers. But she never asks why they might hesitate to appear on NPR. The lack of self-awareness is astounding. Republicans have come to expect the biased, deceptive, and self-serving behavior embodied by Mrs. Jensen’s article. Its publication simply served to remind conservatives that NPR will not treat us fairly.

Within NPR’s newsroom, it seems Mrs. Jensen’s stance towards my interview is a typical one. When a listener tweeted “Jim Banks spouting clear lies on NPR and he got no pushback. Why?” “All things Considered” host Mary Louise Kelly replied, “Don’t believe I’ve ever interviewed Jim Banks but when I do, I’ll look forward to pressing him for evidence.” A tacit confirmation of the reader’s false characterization of my statements. She will not be interviewing me anytime soon, but luckily Mrs. Kelly can find the “evidence” she seeks by reading this letter, or the original New York Times report.

Ms. Chapin, NPR is funded with taxpayer money, and so has a special responsibility to remain evenhanded. There are deeply-rooted, structural reasons for NPR’s political slant and I don’t expect you to turn it into a non-partisan institution overnight. But, if you retract and issue a correction to Mrs. Jensen’s disingenuous article, NPR will have taken a step towards basic standards of journalistic integrity. And if you sincerely do wish to book Republican lawmakers, they may be more likely to accept your request.

Sincerely,



Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Cc:

Every Republican member of Congress