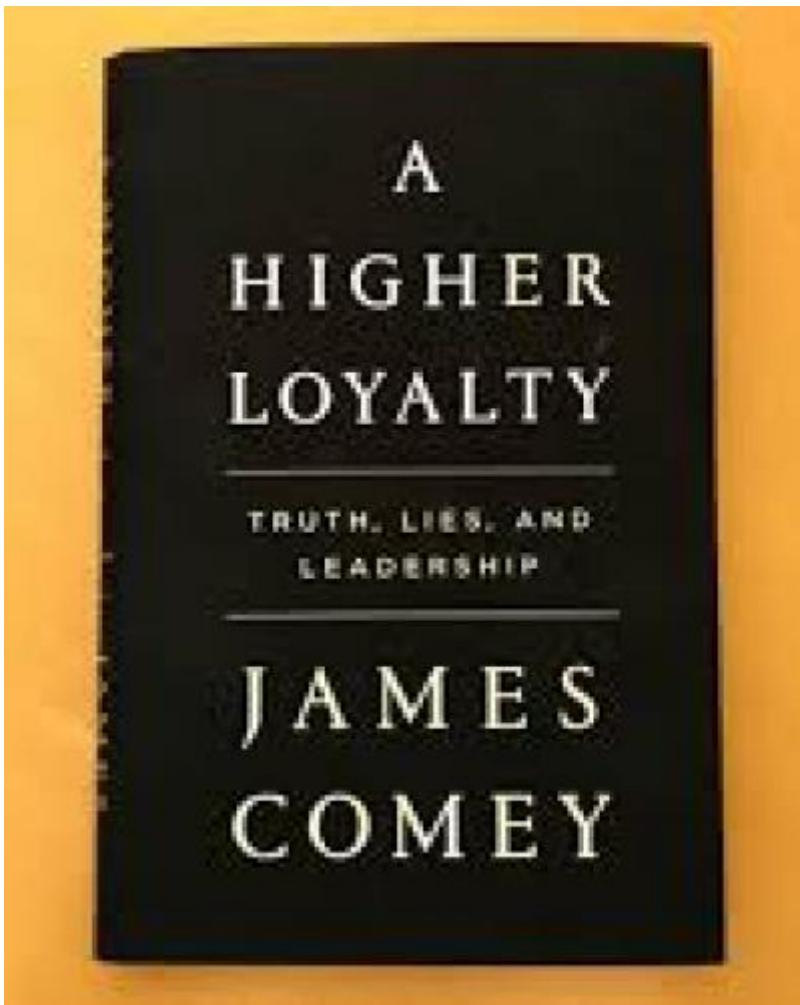


Donald Trump denounces former FBI director ahead of book release



Washington, April 16 (RHC)-- U.S. President Donald Trump unleashed a torrent of rage against James Comey on Sunday over his forthcoming memoir, calling him "slippery," insisting he never asked Comey for loyalty and labeling him "the WORST FBI Director in history, by far!"

Trump fired off a series of tweets ahead of the airing of Comey's first interview on the book, which offers his version of the events surrounding his firing by Trump and the investigations into Russian election meddling and Hillary Clinton's email practices.

In an excerpt of his interview, aired by ABC News on Sunday, Comey said his belief that Hillary Clinton would beat Trump in the 2016 presidential election was a factor in his decision to disclose the investigation into her e-mails. Trump seized on that, saying Comey "was making decisions based on the fact that he thought she was going to win, and he wanted a job. Slimeball!"

Comey's disclosure shortly before the election that the FBI had reopened its investigation into her e-mail use enraged Democrats. After Clinton's loss, many Democrats blamed Comey and Clinton herself has said it hurt her election prospects.

Trump on Sunday pushed back again against the former FBI director's claims that Trump sought his loyalty, saying it was "Just another of his many lies." He questioned Comey's intelligence and place in history, writing: "Slippery James Comey, a man who always ends up badly and out of whack (he is not smart!), will go down as the WORST FBI Director in history, by far!"

He also suggested Comey should be imprisoned, saying: "How come he gave up Classified Information (jail), why did he lie to Congress (jail)." There is no indication Comey is under investigation for doing either.

Asked if the president wanted the U.S. Justice Department to investigate Comey, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Sunday on ABC's "This Week" that she was not aware of a specific request, but "if they feel there was any wrongdoing, they should certainly look into that just as they do on a number of other topics."

Comey is embarking on a public rollout of his book, "A Higher Loyalty," which comes out Tuesday. In the book, Comey compares Trump to a mafia don and calls his leadership of the country "ego driven and about personal loyalty."

Trump fired Comey in May 2017, setting off a scramble at the Justice Department that led to the appointment of Robert Mueller as special counsel overseeing the Russia investigation. Mueller's probe has expanded to include whether Trump obstructed justice by firing Comey, a claim the president denies.

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