

DOW JONES, A NEWS CORP COMPANY

-0.25% ▼

-0.23% ▼

0.14% ▲

2.922% ▲

-2.83% ▼

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. To order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers visit <http://www.djreprints.com>.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/roger-stone-sought-information-on-clinton-from-assange-emails-show-1527191428>

U.S.

Roger Stone Sought Information on Clinton From Assange, Emails Show

Ex-Trump adviser urged intermediary to ask WikiLeaks for specific dates of rival candidate's communications



Roger Stone, an associate of President Donald Trump, speaking in September after answering questions from the House Intelligence Committee related to its Russia probe. PHOTO: JIM LO SCALZO/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

By *Shelby Holliday and Rob Barry*

May 24, 2018 3:50 p.m. ET

Former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone privately sought information he considered damaging to Hillary Clinton from WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange during the 2016 presidential campaign, according to emails reviewed by The Wall Street Journal.

The emails could raise new questions about Mr. Stone's testimony before the House Intelligence Committee in September, in which he said he "merely wanted confirmation" from an acquaintance that Mr. Assange had information about Mrs. Clinton, according to a portion of the transcript that was made public.

In a Sept. 18, 2016, message, Mr. Stone urged an acquaintance who knew Mr. Assange to ask the WikiLeaks founder for emails related to Mrs. Clinton's alleged role in disrupting a purported Libyan peace deal in 2011 when she was secretary of state, referring to her by her initials.

"Please ask Assange for any State or HRC e-mail from August 10 to August 30--particularly on August 20, 2011," Mr. Stone wrote to Randy Credico, a New York radio personality who had interviewed Mr. Assange several weeks earlier. Mr. Stone, a longtime confidant of Donald Trump, had no formal role in his campaign at the time.

Mr. Credico initially responded to Mr. Stone that what he was requesting would be on WikiLeaks' website if it existed, according to an email reviewed by the Journal. Mr. Stone, the emails show, replied: "Why do we assume WikiLeaks has released everything they have ???"

In another email, Mr. Credico then asked Mr. Stone to give him a "little bit of time," saying he thought Mr. Assange might appear on his radio show the next day. A few hours later, Mr. Credico wrote: "That batch probably coming out in the next drop...I can't ask them favors every



Randy Credico in 2013. PHOTO: JOHN MINCHILLO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

other day .I asked one of his lawyers...they have major legal headaches riggt now..relax.”

Mr. Credico said in an interview with the Journal that he never passed the message on to Mr. Assange or his lawyers, but “got tired” of Mr. Stone “bothering” him, and so told Mr. Stone he had passed along the message. Mr. Credico said he did so because he owed Mr. Stone a favor for helping him book Libertarian

presidential candidate Gary Johnson as a guest on his show.

Mr. Stone, in a text message to the Journal, said that Mr. Credico had “provided nothing” to him and that WikiLeaks never handed anything over. Both men deny ever having special access to WikiLeaks’ material.

“I never had possession or access to any Clinton emails or records,” Mr. Stone said, adding that his testimony before the House committee was “complete and accurate.”

Adam Schiff (D., Calif.), the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, said the emails hadn’t been provided to congressional investigators. “If there is such a document, then it would mean that his testimony was either deliberately incomplete or deliberately false,” said Mr. Schiff, who has continued to request documents and conduct interviews with witnesses despite the committee’s probe concluding earlier this year said.

A lawyer for Mr. Stone, Grant Smith, said the emails hadn’t been turned over to House investigators because they were “not encompassed within the scope of the committee’s request.” Mr. Stone said the emails were preserved at the request of the Senate, which is also conducting a Russian interference probe. Mr. Smith said they hadn’t yet been given to investigators there.

The newly unearthed emails come amid signs that special counsel Robert Mueller’s team is examining Mr. Stone’s role in Mr. Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign. Among other matters, prosecutors have asked about Mr. Stone’s claim to have met with WikiLeaks during the campaign, according to a witness familiar with the investigation.

U.S. officials have said WikiLeaks received material from operatives working on behalf of Russia’s military intelligence group, which Mr. Assange has denied. The Kremlin has denied it meddled in the election.

Messrs. Stone and Credico said they haven’t been contacted by Mr. Mueller’s office, which declined to comment. WikiLeaks didn’t respond to requests for comment.

In the initial email, which included an attachment with photos of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi and other documents, Mr. Stone sought to confirm speculation that Mrs. Clinton had unnecessarily supported the decision to “continue bombing Libya” during the height of the country’s civil war in 2011. The conflict ultimately led to Ghadafi’s killing at the hands of opposition forces. A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton didn’t respond to requests for comment.

Several weeks after Mr. Stone’s email request, on Oct. 3, 2016, an article ran on Infowars.com, a conservative news outlet to which he frequently contributed during the campaign. The article included some of the same images as Mr. Stone’s initial email to Mr. Credico, and didn’t include any unreleased Clinton-related emails or WikiLeaks material.

The emails appear to be consistent with Mr. Stone’s description in his sworn testimony of Mr. Credico as a “go-between” and an “intermediary” to WikiLeaks during the 2016 campaign, according to a portion of his interview that was made public.

Mr. Credico, who considers himself a supporter of WikiLeaks, has publicly raised questions about the details of Mr. Stone’s claims and in recent weeks has called some of them false.

Mr. Credico said his relationship with Mr. Assange and his team didn't begin until late August 2016, when the WikiLeaks founder agreed to do his radio show. By that time, Mr. Stone had already claimed to be in touch with Mr. Assange and appeared to predict the release of information damaging to Mrs. Clinton. Mr. Stone now says he assumed Mr. Credico was in touch with Mr. Assange during that time.

After earlier asserting his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in the House probe, Mr. Credico now says he is willing to talk with investigators. He said he met on Wednesday with the committee's Democratic staff members for what he called a limited conversation about WikiLeaks, the 2016 campaign and Mr. Stone.

As Mr. Credico has become more vocal about what he says are discrepancies in Mr. Stone's account, Mr. Stone has responded with a series of threats, according to emails and text messages reviewed by the Journal.

In early April, in one of those emails, Mr. Stone accused Mr. Credico of serving as an informant.

"Everyone says u are wearing a wire for Mueller," the April 7 email said. Two days later, Mr. Stone wrote: "Run your mouth = get sued." Mr. Credico denies being an informant.

Mr. Stone said he was warning Mr. Credico against defaming him and urging him to "simply tell the truth."

Write to Shelby Holliday at shelby.holliday@wsj.com and Rob Barry at rob.barry@wsj.com

Appeared in the May 25, 2018, print edition as 'Trump Aide Sought Clinton Emails.'

Copyright ©2017 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. To order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers visit <http://www.djreprints.com>.