

LCVVF24-MT01-D01a

Concept - 18 Investigations - Negative

Duration: 30s

Photos of Zinke: [one](#), [two](#), [three](#), [four](#), [five](#), [six](#), [seven](#), [eight](#), [nine](#), [ten](#), [eleven](#), twelve,

Visual	On-Screen Text	VO	Backup
Atmospheric Zinke portrait.	Ryan Zinke	Meet Ryan Zinke.	
Overlay of reams of text over Zinke's face.	<b>Ryan Zinke</b> 18 FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS	Eighteen federal investigations.	<b>Ryan Zinke, "by the time that President Trump fired him in mid-December" of 2018, "was the target of 18 separate federal investigations."</b>  "A foundation run by Zinke's wife entered into an arrangement with the president of Halliburton, a company that did a great deal of business with the department, to build a brewery on land that the foundation owned in Montana. By the time that President Trump fired him in mid-December, Zinke was the target of 18 separate federal investigations." ( <i>Nation</i> , <a href="#">06/07/22</a> )
We dive deeper into the investigation ...	<b>Ryan Zinke</b> CORRUPTION  PUBLIC OFFICE PERSONAL GAIN	A cloud of alleged corruption.  Using his public office for personal gain.	<b>Ryan Zinke, "by the time that President Trump fired him in mid-December" of 2018, "was the target of 18 separate federal investigations."</b>  "A foundation run by Zinke's wife entered into an arrangement with the president of Halliburton, a company that did a great deal of business with the department, to build a brewery on land that the foundation owned in Montana. By the time that President Trump fired him in mid-December, Zinke was the target of 18 separate federal investigations." ( <i>Nation</i> , <a href="#">06/07/22</a> )  "Federal Investigators" said Ryan Zinke "misused his office and lied," misusing "his position" as Secretary of the Interior "to advance a commercial development

		<p><b>project that included a microbrewery in his Montana hometown and lied to an agency ethics official about his involvement.”</b></p> <p>“Ryan Zinke, Trump's Interior secretary, misused his office and lied, investigators say [...] Trump administration Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke misused his position to advance a commercial development project that included a microbrewery in his Montana hometown and lied to an agency ethics official about his involvement, according to a report by federal investigators released Wednesday [...] Grijalva said the findings show that Zinke used his office to advance his personal interests and attempted to use the peace park to ‘force inclusion of a brewery’ in the development.” (Associated Press, <a href="#">02/16/22</a>)</p> <p><b>Federal investigators also found that Ryan Zinke “violated a policy prohibiting nongovernment employees from being transported on the government’s dime in government vehicles “after his wife traveled with him.”</b></p> <p>“The investigation into the land deal was one of numerous investigations of Zinke that began when he was in Trump’s Cabinet. In another case, investigators found that he violated a policy prohibiting nongovernment employees from riding in government cars after his wife traveled with him, but he said ethics officials approved it. Zinke was cleared of wrongdoing following a complaint that he redrew the boundaries of a national monument in Utah to benefit a state lawmaker and political ally.” (Associated Press, <a href="#">02/16/22</a>)</p> <p><b>2017: Ryan Zinke Chartered A \$12,375 Private Jet To Travel Between Nevada And Montana, So That He Could Give A Speech To A Hockey Team Owned By One</b></p>
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			<p><b>Of His Biggest Campaign Donors. Zinke Could Have Spent Only \$300 To Fly Commercial, But Instead, Chartered The \$12k Private Jet Owned By An Oil Executive, As He “Would Have Missed The Hockey Team Dinner.”</b></p> <p>“Like Trump, Zinke opened what was to be a policy speech with a defense of his actions. On the day of his \$12,000 flight, Zinke said, he was in Nevada for department business and was due to attend a meeting the next day in Montana of the Western Governors Assn. He could have taken a less-expensive commercial flight between those two events, but he would have missed the hockey team dinner. The team is owned by Bill Foley, one of Zinke’s most generous political donors. Trump has not commented on Zinke’s or Pruitt’s travel. In brief remarks Sunday he seemed to excuse Mnuchin’s actions, which included requesting a government plane for his honeymoon in Europe. (The request was canceled before the trip.) Even then, the president took pains to distance himself from Price.” [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]</p> <p>“The flight cost taxpayers \$12,375, according to an Interior Department spokeswoman. Commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as \$300. Zinke’s spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said no commercial flight was available that would have worked with his schedule that night. Zinke appeared at an event held by a major campaign donor, giving a motivational speech at a dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, a hockey team owned by Bill Foley, the chairman of Fidelity National Financial. Employees and PACs associated with the financial services company have given close to \$200,000 to Zinke’s past congressional campaigns. ‘Claims that the Secretary’s full schedule required the use of chartered aircraft deserve scrutiny,’ the lawmakers wrote in a letter to</p>
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		<p>Kendall last week. ‘It appears as though Secretary Zinke and his staff could have taken a commercial flight from Las Vegas to Montana if he did not attend the motivational speech to the hockey team owned by his friend and campaign contributor.’” [Denver Post, 10/3/17]</p> <p>“The flight cost taxpayers \$12,375, according to an Interior Department spokeswoman. Commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as \$300. Zinke’s spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said no commercial flight was available that would have worked with his schedule that night. Zinke appeared at an event held by a major campaign donor, giving a motivational speech at a dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, a hockey team owned by Bill Foley, the chairman of Fidelity National Financial. Employees and PACs associated with the financial services company have given close to \$200,000 to Zinke’s past congressional campaigns. ‘Claims that the Secretary’s full schedule required the use of chartered aircraft deserve scrutiny,’ the lawmakers wrote in a letter to Kendall last week. ‘It appears as though Secretary Zinke and his staff could have taken a commercial flight from Las Vegas to Montana if he did not attend the motivational speech to the hockey team owned by his friend and campaign contributor.’” [Denver Post, 10/3/17]</p> <p>“Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke chartered a flight from Las Vegas to near his home in Montana this summer aboard a plane owned by oil-and-gas executives, internal documents show. [...] Jay Nielson, the executive vice president of Nielson &amp; Associates, an oil-and-gas exploration and production firm, co-owns the plane through a holding company, but he said he was not in control of the plane at the time and that it was chartered through a company called</p>
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Choice Aviation. He told The Washington Post he was unsure whether Zinke flew on the plane and added, 'Part of why people charter planes is they like to remain somewhat private.' A representative at Choice Aviation, who declined to give her name, said she was unsure whether Choice chartered a flight for Zinke, then said the company did not charter the flight. She then ended the call." [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

"Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke chartered a flight from Las Vegas to near his home in Montana this summer aboard a plane owned by oil-and-gas executives, internal documents show. [...] Jay Nielson, the executive vice president of Nielson & Associates, an oil-and-gas exploration and production firm, co-owns the plane through a holding company, but he said he was not in control of the plane at the time and that it was chartered through a company called Choice Aviation. He told The Washington Post he was unsure whether Zinke flew on the plane and added, 'Part of why people charter planes is they like to remain somewhat private.' A representative at Choice Aviation, who declined to give her name, said she was unsure whether Choice chartered a flight for Zinke, then said the company did not charter the flight. She then ended the call." [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

**Salt Lake Tribune op-ed: Ryan Zinke is "maybe the most cartoonishly corrupt member of Mr. Trump's entire cabinet."**

*Salt Lake Tribune* op-ed by Tom Scocca: "Or Montana, where Ryan Zinke, maybe the most cartoonishly corrupt member of Mr. Trump's entire cabinet, won a seat in Congress." (*Salt Lake Tribune*, 11/14/22)

**Fellow Montana Republican Dr. Al Olszewski has called Ryan Zinke "one of**

		<p><b>the most corrupt persons in Washington’ and a ‘dishonest man.’”</b></p> <p>Ryan Zinke’s “opponents from both sides of the aisle don’t intend to let voters forget the rest. Republican candidate Dr. Al Olszewski has called Zinke ‘one of the most corrupt persons in Washington’ and a ‘dishonest man.’” (<i>Daily Beast</i>, <a href="#">04/11/19</a>)</p> <p><b>Headline: “Trump fears Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke broke anti-corruption rules over land deal with Haliburton chief who offered his family a brewery”</b></p> <p>Headline: “Trump fears Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke broke anti-corruption rules over land deal with Haliburton chief who offered his family a brewery” (<i>MailOnline</i>, <a href="#">11/01/18</a>)</p> <p><b>Rachel Maddow: Ryan Zinke was “investigated for corruption” and federal investigators found enough “to be substantive” and it was considered “serious enough” and was “referred to Justice Department for criminal prosecution.”</b></p> <p>Rachel Maddow: “Also, Trump’s Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke investigated for corruption. The result of the investigation was that it was found to be substantive and serious enough it was referred to Justice Department for criminal prosecution. Trump’s Justice Department declined to prosecute Secretary Zinke.” (MSNBC THE RACHEL MADDOW SHOW, 03/03/21)</p> <p><b>Letter to the Editor headline: “Eureka woman says Zinke is too corrupt for Montana”</b></p> <p>Letter to the Editor headline: “Eureka woman says Zinke is too corrupt for Montana” (<i>Western News</i>, <a href="#">11/01/22</a>)</p>
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<p>Another investigative surveillance shot of Zinke.</p>	<p>Ryan Zinke resigns from Trump Administration</p>	<p>No wonder Ryan Zinke resigned from the Trump administration in disgrace.</p> <p>And that’s not all...</p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke, Trump’s nominee “as the head of the Interior Department” was “remarkably corrupt” and “had to resign.”</b></p> <p>From a Harrop op-ed: “It turned out that, on the contrary, Trump very much liked the idea. He got to work on it in his first month as president. And he named Ryan Zinke, a zealot for privatizing public land, as the head of the Interior Department. The remarkably corrupt Zinke had to resign. Trump now wants Zinke’s No. 2, David Bernhardt, to take over Interior and continue the mission.” (<i>Charleston Gazette-Mail</i>, 04/10/19)</p> <p><b>Ryan Zinke “resigned in disgrace” in 2018 “amid a flurry of ethical scandals.”</b></p> <p>“President Trump on Tuesday tapped ex-oil lobbyist David Bernhardt to permanently replace former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who resigned in disgrace last year amid a flurry of ethical scandals. Bernhardt, who took over as the acting Interior Department chief after Zinke’s departure in December, will need to be confirmed by the Senate before he can officially take over.” (<i>New York Daily News</i>, <a href="#">02/04/19</a>)</p> <p><b>Missoula Current Letter to the editor: Ryan Zinke “resigned in disgrace in December 2018, less than 2 years of</b></p>



			<p><b>service with no less than 18 federal investigations into his conduct.”</b></p> <p>Letter to the editor: “This is not something Montanans do. This contract lacked transparency and awarded outrageous salaries and even had a clause that prohibited oversight! Zinke resigned in disgrace in December 2018, less than 2 years of service with no less than 18 federal investigations into his conduct. Ryan Zinke is ethically challenged and cannot resist the temptation to further his business interests or those of his cronies.” (<i>Missoula Current</i>, <a href="#">10/19/22</a>)</p>
<p>Aerial shot of Montana.</p> <p>Zinke portrait superimposed on the ground, tracking the camera shot.</p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke</b> Profit from selling Montana land</p>	<p>Zinke tried to personally profit from out-of-state interests buying up Montana land.</p>	<p><b>“Federal Investigators” said Ryan Zinke “misused his office and lied,” misusing “his position” as Secretary of the Interior “to advance a commercial development project that included a microbrewery in his Montana hometown and lied to an agency ethics official about his involvement.” The project was funded by out-of-state “David Lesar, then-chair of oil services giant Halliburton” who was seeking to buy up Montana land to create the commercial development.</b></p> <p>“Ryan Zinke, Trump's Interior secretary, misused his office and lied, investigators say [...] Trump administration Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke misused his position to advance a commercial development project that included a microbrewery in his Montana hometown and lied to an agency ethics official about his involvement, according to a report by federal investigators released Wednesday [...] Grijalva said the findings show that Zinke used his office to advance his personal interests and attempted to use the peace park to ‘force inclusion of a brewery’ in the development.” (<i>Associated Press</i>, <a href="#">02/16/22</a>)</p> <p>“The report explores a real estate deal and project alled 95 Karrow in Whitefish, Mont., first reported on by POLITICO in 2018. The</p>

			<p>article said the group was funded by David Lesar, then-chair of oil services giant Halliburton. The deal involved a foundation created by Zinke and his wife in his hometown of Whitefish — a foundation formed to provide a sledding park for children and community open space in a setting that recognized the contributions of veterans.” (<i>E &amp; E News</i>, <a href="#">02/16/22</a>)</p> <p><b>Ryan Zinke Communicated With Developers “64 Times” Between August 2017 And July 2018 To Discuss Project Details, Which The IG Said: “Show That Secretary Zinke Played An Extensive, Direct, And Substantive Role In Representing The Foundation During Negotiations With The 95 Karrow Project Developers,” And Found That Zinke Misused His Office For “Private Gain” By Using His Office At The Department Of The Interior To Host A Meeting With Project Developers And Directing His Staff To Print Documents Related To The Land Deal. The Deal Would Potentially Have Led To Zinke Running A Microbrewery On The Site, Which Locals Said Had Long Been A Goal Of Zinke’s, As One Developer Said Zinke Was “Asking For An Exclusive Right To Produce Alcohol” At The Site, And “Leveraging The Parking And Snow Storage For The Brewery Lot And Legal Access To His Site,” Which The Developer Acknowledged Was A “Big Ask.”</b></p> <p>“But a report released Wednesday by the department’s internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project’s design, the use of his foundation’s land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. ‘These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary</p>
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			<p>Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,' Inspector General Mark Greenblatt's office wrote. Zinke 'was not simply a passthrough for information,' the report said. 'He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.'” [Washington Post, <a href="#">2/16/22</a>]</p> <p>“But a report released Wednesday by the department's internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project's design, the use of his foundation's land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. 'These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,' Inspector General Mark Greenblatt's office wrote. Zinke 'was not simply a passthrough for information,' the report said. 'He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.'” [Washington Post, <a href="#">2/16/22</a>]</p> <p>“But a report released Wednesday by the department's internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project's design, the use of his foundation's land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. 'These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,' Inspector</p>
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			<p>is leveraging the parking and snow storage for the Brewery lot and legal access to his site. In my opinion this is a big ask.’ The same developer followed up in a September 2017 email saying, ‘If we can get by the county/city thing in some way, get him his brewery site, and he is able to pay for the development and maintenance of the park at a standard we impose and all agree upon, it might be a path through this.’” [Politico, <a href="#">2/16/22</a>]</p> <p>The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former interior secretary, misused his position and lied to investigators about his involvement in a Montana land deal, repeatedly breaking federal ethics rules, a government watchdog said on Wednesday. [...] Additionally, the inspector general found that Mr. Zinke misused his office for private gain when he directed his staff to arrange a meeting with the developers in his office at the Interior Department and print documents related to the real estate project.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]</p>
<p>Silhouette of Zinke</p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke</b> Took campaign cash from a Chinese company PAC</p>	<p>He even took campaign cash from a Chinese company’s PAC.</p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke, from 2022 to 2024, took in a total of \$7,500 from the Syngenta Corp. PAC, a “Chinese-state owned company” that the Department of Defense classified in 2022 “as a Chinese Military Company that operates in the United States.”</b></p> <p>From 2022 to 2024, Ryan Zinke took in a total of \$7,500 from the SYNGENTA CORPORATION EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE. (FEC, accessed <a href="#">09/16/24</a>)</p> <p>“Syngenta AG is a Switzerland based provider of agricultural technologies and chemicals. In 2017, the company was acquired by the China National Chemical Corporation, also known as ChemChina. Syngenta’s political action committee donated a total of \$207,000 in 2022 to candidates for the U.S. House of</p>

			<p>Representatives. \$151,000 went to Republicans and \$56,000 went to Democrats [...] Kiggans and Zinke each took \$2,500 from Syngenta in 2023.” (<i>American Journal News</i>, <a href="#">03/04/24</a>)</p> <p>“ChemChina [CNCC.UL] has won more than enough support from Syngenta shareholders to clinch its \$43 billion takeover of the Swiss pesticides and seeds group, the two companies said on Friday. The deal, announced in February 2016, was prompted by China's desire to use Syngenta's portfolio of top-tier chemicals and patent-protected seeds to improve domestic agricultural output. It is China's biggest foreign takeover to date.” (<i>Reuters</i>, <a href="#">05/05/17</a>)</p> <p>“Attorney General Tim Griffin announced Tuesday he is ordering a Chinese-state owned company to divest its ownership of farmland in Arkansas. Syngenta Seeds, LLC, a company that makes genetically modified corn, wheat, soybeans, vegetable and sunflower seeds, owns about 160 acres of farmland in Craighead County through a subsidiary, Northrup King Seed Co., according to the Attorney General's Office. In May 2017, China National Chemical Corporation, also known as ChemChina, acquired 80.7% of the company's shares according to a Syngenta news release. The company lists its legal addresses in Wilmington, Del., and Basel, Switzerland, according to its federal disclosure, saying "the landowner entity" changed from Switzerland to China in 2017. In 2022 the U.S. Department of Defense listed ChemChina as a Chinese Military Company that operates in the United States.” (<i>Arkansas Democrat-Gazette</i>, <a href="#">10/18/23</a>)</p>
<p>End card with Zinke. Decay, rust, oil slick textures.</p>		<p>Ryan Zinke is nothing but a corrupt politician.</p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke, “by the time that President Trump fired him in mid-December” of 2018, “was the target of 18 separate federal investigations.”</b></p>

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	<p>Paid for by LCV Victory Fund.  <a href="http://www.lcvvictoryfund.org">www.lcvvictoryfund.org</a>  . Not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.</p>		

LCVVF24-MT01-D01b

Concept - 18 Investigations - Negative

Duration: 15s

Visual	On-Screen Text	VO	Backup
<p>We are looking down at a table. A photo of Zinke slides across the table, revealing the text.</p> <p><i>Strong shadows across the table and photo.</i></p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke</b> Corrupt politician</p>	<p>Ryan Zinke resigned in disgrace from the Trump administration after facing</p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke, Trump’s nominee “as the head of the Interior Department” was “remarkably corrupt” and “had to resign.”</b></p> <p>From a Harrop op-ed: “It turned out that, on the contrary, Trump very much liked the idea. He got to work on it in his first month as president. And he named Ryan Zinke, a zealot for privatizing public land, as the head of the Interior Department. The remarkably corrupt Zinke had to resign. Trump now wants Zinke’s No. 2, David Bernhardt, to take over Interior and continue the mission.” (<i>Charleston Gazette-Mail</i>, 04/10/19)</p> <p><b>Ryan Zinke “resigned in disgrace” in 2018 “amid a flurry of ethical scandals.”</b></p> <p>“President Trump on Tuesday tapped ex-oil lobbyist David Bernhardt to permanently replace former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who resigned in disgrace last year amid a flurry of ethical scandals. Bernhardt, who took over as the acting Interior Department chief after Zinke’s departure in December, will need to be confirmed by the Senate before he can officially take over.” (<i>New York Daily News</i>, <a href="#">02/04/19</a>)</p> <p><b>Missoula Current Letter to the editor: Ryan Zinke “resigned in disgrace in December 2018, less than 2 years of service with no less than 18 federal investigations into his conduct.”</b></p> <p>Letter to the editor: “This is not something Montanans do. This contract lacked transparency and awarded outrageous salaries and even had a clause that prohibited</p>

		<p>oversight! Zinke resigned in disgrace in December 2018, less than 2 years of service with no less than 18 federal investigations into his conduct. Ryan Zinke is ethically challenged and cannot resist the temptation to further his business interests or those of his cronies.” (<i>Missoula Current</i>, <a href="#">10/19/22</a>)</p> <p><b>Ryan Zinke, “by the time that President Trump fired him in mid-December” of 2018, “was the target of 18 separate federal investigations.”</b></p> <p>“A foundation run by Zinke’s wife entered into an arrangement with the president of Halliburton, a company that did a great deal of business with the department, to build a brewery on land that the foundation owned in Montana. By the time that President Trump fired him in mid-December, Zinke was the target of 18 separate federal investigations.” (<i>Nation</i>, <a href="#">06/07/22</a>)</p> <p><b>Salt Lake Tribune op-ed: Ryan Zinke is “maybe the most cartoonishly corrupt member of Mr. Trump’s entire cabinet.”</b></p> <p><i>Salt Lake Tribune</i> op-ed by Tom Scocca: “Or Montana, where Ryan Zinke, maybe the most cartoonishly corrupt member of Mr. Trump’s entire cabinet, won a seat in Congress.” (<i>Salt Lake Tribune</i>, 11/14/22)</p> <p><b>Fellow Montana Republican Dr. Al Olszewski has called Ryan Zinke “one of the most corrupt persons in Washington’ and a ‘dishonest man.’”</b></p> <p>Ryan Zinke’s “opponents from both sides of the aisle don’t intend to let voters forget the rest. Republican candidate Dr. Al Olszewski has called Zinke ‘one of the most corrupt persons in Washington’ and a ‘dishonest man.’” (<i>Daily Beast</i>, <a href="#">04/11/19</a>)</p>
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Letter to the Editor: “We shouldn’t vote for someone as inept and corrupt as Ryan Zinke just because he has a ‘R’ after his name. It’s only been three years since he resigned from the Interior Department amid a series of ethics scandals and federal investigations — does he think Montanans forget, or that we are too dumb to know? I find it truly audacious that someone with this history of corruption would turn around after being basically fired from Trump’s cabinet and run for office in Montana - AND that we would even entertain his candidacy [...] He lives primarily in Santa Barbara, and has only bothered to show up for 3 out of 17 debates here in Montana, where he’s failed to answer any questions about his corruption. He has zero accomplishments in public service. He cares only about how he can profit off of his position.” (*Western News*, [11/01/22](#))

***Charleston Gazette-Mail: Trump named “the remarkably corrupt” Ryan Zinke, “a zealot for privatizing public land, as the head of the Interior Department.”***

From a Harrop op-ed: “It turned out that, on the contrary, Trump very much liked the idea. He got to work on it in his first month as president. And he named Ryan Zinke, a zealot for privatizing public land, as the head of the Interior Department. The remarkably corrupt Zinke had to resign. Trump now wants Zinke’s No. 2, David Bernhardt, to take over Interior

			<p>and continue the mission.” (<i>Charleston Gazette-Mail</i>, 04/10/19)</p>
<p>Printouts of the investigations start stacking up on the table, stop motion.</p>	<p>Federal Investigation into Ryan Zinke #18 <i>(it would start at #1 and count up as the paper piles up)</i></p>	<p>not one, not two, but eighteen federal investigations into corruption and using his office for personal gain.</p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke, Trump’s nominee “as the head of the Interior Department” was “remarkably corrupt” and “had to resign.”</b></p> <p>From a Harrop op-ed: “It turned out that, on the contrary, Trump very much liked the idea. He got to work on it in his first month as president. And he named Ryan Zinke, a zealot for privatizing public land, as the head of the Interior Department. The remarkably corrupt Zinke had to resign. Trump now wants Zinke’s No. 2, David Bernhardt, to take over Interior and continue the mission.” (<i>Charleston Gazette-Mail</i>, 04/10/19)</p> <p><b>Ryan Zinke “resigned in disgrace” in 2018 “amid a flurry of ethical scandals.”</b></p> <p>“President Trump on Tuesday tapped ex-oil lobbyist David Bernhardt to permanently replace former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who resigned in disgrace last year amid a flurry of ethical scandals. Bernhardt, who took over as the acting Interior Department chief after Zinke’s departure in December, will need to be confirmed by the Senate before he can officially take over.” (<i>New York Daily News</i>, <a href="#">02/04/19</a>)</p> <p><b>Missoula Current Letter to the editor: Ryan Zinke “resigned in disgrace in December 2018, less than 2 years of service with no less than 18 federal investigations into his conduct.”</b></p> <p>Letter to the editor: “This is not something Montanans do. This contract lacked transparency and awarded outrageous salaries and even had a clause that prohibited oversight! Zinke resigned in disgrace in December 2018, less than 2 years of service with no less than 18 federal investigations into his conduct. Ryan Zinke is ethically challenged</p>

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		<p>commercial development project that included a microbrewery in his Montana hometown and lied to an agency ethics official about his involvement, according to a report by federal investigators released Wednesday [...] Grijalva said the findings show that Zinke used his office to advance his personal interests and attempted to use the peace park to ‘force inclusion of a brewery’ in the development.” (Associated Press, <a href="#">02/16/22</a>)</p> <p>“The report explores a real estate deal and project alled 95 Karrow in Whitefish, Mont., first reported on by POLITICO in 2018. The article said the group was funded by David Lesar, then-chair of oil services giant Halliburton. The deal involved a foundation created by Zinke and his wife in his hometown of Whitefish — a foundation formed to provide a sledding park for children and community open space in a setting that recognized the contributions of veterans.” (E &amp; E News, <a href="#">02/16/22</a>)</p> <p><b>Ryan Zinke Communicated With Developers “64 Times” Between August 2017 And July 2018 To Discuss Project Details, Which The IG Said: “Show That Secretary Zinke Played An Extensive, Direct, And Substantive Role In Representing The Foundation During Negotiations With The 95 Karrow Project Developers,” And Found That Zinke Misused His Office For “Private Gain” By Using His Office At The Department Of The Interior To Host A Meeting With Project Developers And Directing His Staff To Print Documents Related To The Land Deal. The Deal Would Potentially Have Led To Zinke Running A Microbrewery On The Site, Which Locals Said Had Long Been A Goal Of Zinke’s, As One Developer Said Zinke Was “Asking For An Exclusive Right To Produce Alcohol” At The Site, And “Leveraging The Parking And Snow Storage For The Brewery Lot And Legal</b></p>
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		<p><b>Access To His Site,” Which The Developer Acknowledged Was A “Big Ask.”</b></p> <p>“But a report released Wednesday by the department’s internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project’s design, the use of his foundation’s land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. ‘These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,’ Inspector General Mark Greenblatt’s office wrote. Zinke ‘was not simply a passthrough for information,’ the report said. ‘He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.’” [Washington Post, <a href="#">2/16/22</a>]</p> <p>“But a report released Wednesday by the department’s internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project’s design, the use of his foundation’s land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. ‘These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,’ Inspector General Mark Greenblatt’s office wrote. Zinke ‘was not simply a passthrough for information,’ the report said. ‘He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.’” [Washington Post, <a href="#">2/16/22</a>]</p> <p>“But a report released Wednesday by the department’s internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges</p>
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			<p>bed-and-breakfast and rental properties in Whitefish not far from where the commercial development would have taken place.” [Politico, <a href="#">2/16/22</a>]</p> <p>“In an email cited in the report, one developer tells another Zinke ‘is also asking for an exclusive right to produce alcohol on 95 Karrow and the Peace Park. In essence, he is leveraging the parking and snow storage for the Brewery lot and legal access to his site. In my opinion this is a big ask.’ The same developer followed up in a September 2017 email saying, ‘If we can get by the county/city thing in some way, get him his brewery site, and he is able to pay for the development and maintenance of the park at a standard we impose and all agree upon, it might be a path through this.’” [Politico, <a href="#">2/16/22</a>]</p> <p>The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former interior secretary, misused his position and lied to investigators about his involvement in a Montana land deal, repeatedly breaking federal ethics rules, a government watchdog said on Wednesday. [...] Additionally, the inspector general found that Mr. Zinke misused his office for private gain when he directed his staff to arrange a meeting with the developers in his office at the Interior Department and print documents related to the real estate project.” [New York Times, <a href="#">2/16/22</a>]</p>
<p>End card with Zinke.</p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke</b> Corrupt politician</p>	<p>Ryan Zinke is nothing but a corrupt politician.</p>	<p><b>Ryan Zinke, “by the time that President Trump fired him in mid-December” of 2018, “was the target of 18 separate federal investigations.”</b></p> <p>“A foundation run by Zinke’s wife entered into an arrangement with the president of Halliburton, a company that did a great deal of business with the department, to build a brewery on land that the foundation owned in Montana. By the time that President Trump fired him in mid-December, Zinke was the</p>

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