Dr. Fiona Hill—a Model Witness and Professional

November 23, 2019

Dr. Fiona Hill, former official at the National Security Council specializing in Soviet, Russian and European affairs, is a model of how to testify to congress. On Thursday, November 21 she reminded us about the importance of expertise in searching for truth.

As a scholar who studies rhetoric, I say without equivocation that she is one of the most informed and articulate witnesses I have heard. Like a good academic, Hill answered questions thoroughly, revealing her awareness and understanding of prior testimony and depositions—her own and others.

Of special note is that Hill clearly exposed the silliness of Rep. Jim Jordan's questions, showing his lack of knowledge and effort simply to put on a show rather than find the truth. Jordan was so frustrated by
what she said that he violated the House rules by interrupting Hill who had the right to complete her answer despite the fact that Jordan's time had expired. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff correctly enforced the rule by declaring Jordan out of order. All Jordan could do is smirk like someone who was humiliated and caught with their hand in the cookie jar.

Hill should serve as a paragon for how to testify.

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