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## **National Enquirer publisher** immunity over hush-money payment to purported Trump lover

Federal prosecutors have given immunity to the publisher of the National

**DEFENSE** 

**CONGRESS** 

tabloid gave Karen McDougal, the Playboy model who claims she had an affair with President Donald Trump. That payment to McDougal was made shortly before the 2016 presidential election, and was done "to influence" that election, which sent Trump to the

Enquirer in connection with the \$150,000 hush-money payment the supermarket

- White House, according to the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. News of the deal came after Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen was sentenced to three years in prison for crimes that included facilitating the
- Daniels. Dan Mangan | @\_DanMangan Published 58 Mins Ago I Updated 12 Mins Ago

payment to McDougal, and to another alleged Trump paramour, porn star Stormy

**SECNBC** 



President Donald Trump. That payment to McDougal was made shortly before the 2016 presidential election, and was done "to influence" that election, which sent Trump to the White House, according to the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

in prison in U.S. District Court in Manhattan. Cohen's crimes included his playing a key role in getting AMI to pay off McDougal, and also had personally paid another purported paramour of Trump's, porn star Stormy Daniels, right before the

election to keep quiet about their alleged past trysts with Trump.

The SDNY revealed its "non-prosecution agreement" with Enquirer

Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen was sentenced to three years

publisher American Media Inc. on Wednesday, shortly after



AMI admitted it paid off McDougal to keep her from publicizing her

"damaging allegations" of having had a lengthy affair with Trump a

decade before the 2016 election, the prosecutors' office said.

concert with" Trump's campaign, according to the SDNY.

"AMI further admitted that its principal purpose in making the

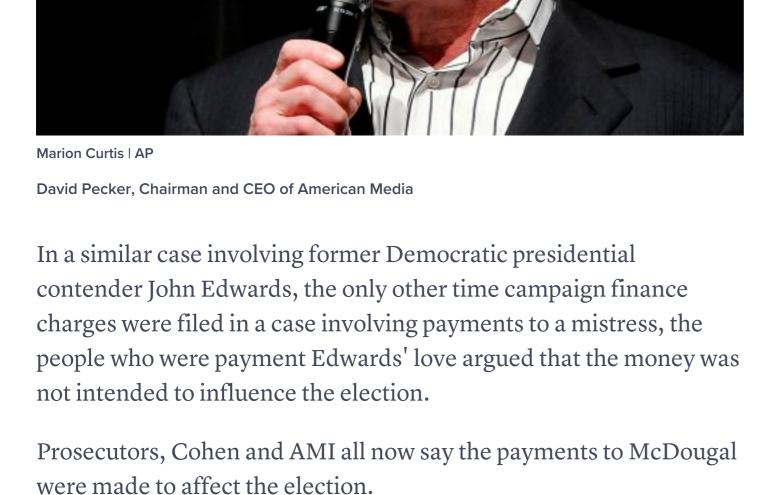
payment was to suppress the woman's story so as to prevent it from

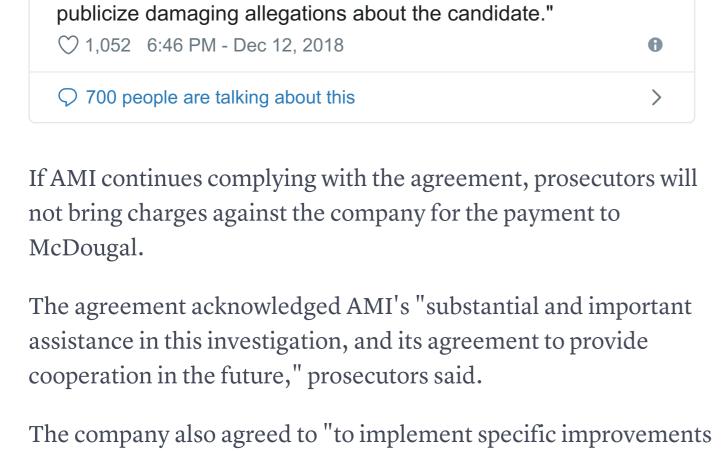
The company also admitted "it made the \$150,000 payment in

influencing the election," prosecutors said.

admission cripples Trump's ability to claim that the payment to McDougal was not about the election, and thus not subject to federal campaign finance law rules.

Former federal prosecutor Mimi Rocah told MSNBC that AMI's





to its internal compliance to prevent future violations of the federal

Vanity Fair reported in August that David Pecker, a Trump pal who

is chairman of AMI, had personally received an immunity

agreement from prosecutors in connection with the McDougal

payment, as had AMI's chief content officer, Dylan Howard.

American Media to WSJ in 2016: "AMI has not paid people to kill

\$150,000 payment...in order to ensure that the woman did not

Fed prosecutors in 2018: "AMI admitted that it made the

Joe Palazzolo 🔮 @joe palazzolo

campaign finance laws."

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damaging stories about Mr. Trump."

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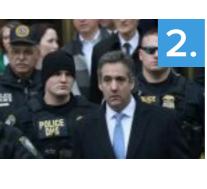
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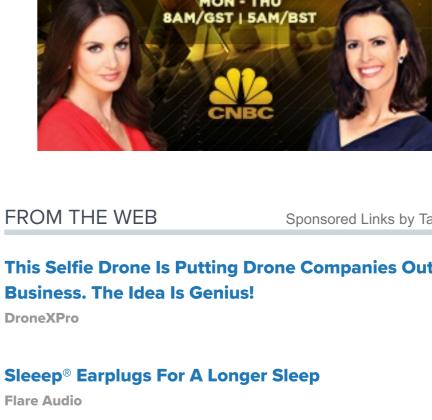
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