



**UCC meets with senior government officials**  
See Page 2

Edmonton, Sept. 16 - 44c - 1,2017, Vol. XC, No. 4 (Page 01, 71)

## Congress moves to probe Russian contacts with Flynn

WASH. (UPI)—Congressional leaders say they will investigate growing questions over contacts between Flynn and top advisers to U.S. President Donald Trump in the weeks and months before he took office.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on February 14 that he expects the House Intelligence Committee will interview Michael Flynn, the White House national security adviser who was pushed out on February 15 over his unfiltered presidential campaign contacts with Russia's ambassador to the United States.

The calls for inquiries in Congress came as U.S. media reported that Trump advisers and staff had numerous contacts with Flynn, including a telephone call in the year before the November 4 presidential election, though no evidence of collusion was reported.

And it came as the White House revealed that Trump later in the week that Flynn, the retired military officer, had misled the White House about his contacts with Russia.

Flynn was not charged but with some reports came out the pres-



The White House has confirmed that U.S. President Donald Trump knew for weeks that former national security adviser Michael Flynn had misled his superiors about his contacts with Russia's ambassador.

one week earlier he had discussed Russian contacts with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, elaborating public statements by both Flynn and Vice President Mike Pence that the conversations did not involve espionage.

Flynn told the Daily Caller on February 17 that "I don't want to hear anyone" in the conversations with Kislyak. He said they spoke only about the 31 Russian diplomats expelled by the Obama administration on December 27 as part of a final round of sanctions against Russia. That same day, the Obama White House announced Russia's intelligence agencies for their roles in allegedly hacking the U.S. presidential election.

"I'm upset about sanctions, it was about the 31 guys who were frozen out," Flynn said. "It was basically, 'Look, I know this happened. We're freezing everything.' I never said anything about it." He is going to review sanctions, "is something like that."

The Reuters reported that Flynn told Kislyak that if Russia did not to respond in 480 in the Obama sanctions as it had when sanctions were announced in the past, that would mean the was issued a "red line" the summer of imposing U.S. Russia relations since Trump took power.

After the U.S. announced news announced, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the unclear wording slip of announcing he would not respond to that, and instead he invited U.S. diplomats to Moscow to join Christmas celebrations at the Kremlin.

The growing questions about



This scene is a scene from Bitter Harvest which opens in theaters across Canada, March 3.

## Bitter Harvest

A love story set amid the Holodomor hits the big screen

By Mike Lykes  
(OTTAWA)—Like many countries in heavy winter, Bitter Harvest has been postponed twice, from 11 to 15 weeks, and last-minute changes of location as harvest would a natural fit.

That's George Zhigunov, swept around of the Russian Revolution that the film is set during the Holodomor — the famine that killed millions in Ukraine in the 1930s and that shaped the country's relationship with Moscow to this day.

The film is being released — in Canada March 3 — and another significant chapter in the relationship, nearly four years of conflict between government forces and Russia-backed insurgents that has left more than 3.75 million dead in the east and the Crimean Peninsula in Russia's hands.

Ukrainian Canadian director George Mendak says that history is the real hero of the story.

"It is a story about people struggling in Ukraine during the time that is up there, the Holodomor in the background," said Mendak, 48, whose film credits include the 1999 political thriller The Kanyasulkam of U.S. President.

But the film, starring British actor Max Irons, Tamara Blazinska, and Victoria Beckham, takes on a subject that some Ukrainians consider a provocation, a catastrophe associated by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin to collectivization, communist rule and the loss of any feeling of Ukrainian independence.

"The movie takes on a different dimension very, because even though in the film we talk about Stalin, and we show Stalin and how he persecuted the individual Ukrainians, what really is central isn't that, with the massacre of the Crimean and eastern Ukraine, it's



Max Irons and Tamara Blazinska star in Bitter Harvest. "It is a love story that happens to be set in the background" says director George Mendak.

the same old story, but repeating itself," Mendak said.

Heavy frost and swirling golden waves of wheat, Red Army soldiers loading bags of grain on their backs to transport to feeding under a starless sky. A man and woman living precariously in a forest, going to work every day to survive.

There are some of the opening scenes of the film, which tells a fictional story of an intricately layered peasant boy named Yuri played by Irons, who is separated from his mother by a Soviet soldier, played by Blazinska.

The struggle is what is to be as the Red Army enters, Stalin's order to collect it, collectivizing Ukraine's agricultural sector, a policy that resulted in famine and millions of deaths — through hunger, summary executions, or exile to Siberian labor camps.

The film ends in 1933, when the death toll reached 3 million.

Richard Bachinsky-Drozdz, the film's co-writer, said he first came up with the story concept in 1990 when he traveled to Ukraine for the first time.

Based in Ottawa by second-generation Ukrainian immigrants, Bachinsky-Drozdz, 70, applied to be an elected legislator in working odd jobs in construction. Later, he became a small-time actor, appearing in Canadian TV shows and movies, including a 1999 film directed by Mendak.

The book author he had named the daughter of a Ukrainian immigrant, leading him to travel to Ukraine in 1999 and begin to learn about his ethnic heritage. In 2004, he spent weeks on Kyiv's streets during the Orange Revolution.

Bachinsky-Drozdz said he wanted to do a film that would honor the Holodomor, exploring the lives of the people, and studying the history of the period the story is set in, and the fate of his ancestors.

Publication Mail Agreement #40027675 paid at Edmonton, Alberta.  
We warrant that the actual content of the Canadian Periodicals Act of the Copyright Commission is for your publishing activities under the Copyright Commission of Canada.  
Deductions: 443

PLEASE SEND TO

1-800-363-7111

UCC 04 01 17

