

# The Delray Democrat

## Lying Liars and the Lying Liars Lying for the Lying Liars<sup>1</sup>

*Rob Resnick*

In 2 weeks of public, transparent, professional hearings, the House Intelligence Committee heard from almost 20 witnesses consisting of career public servants (who had earned impeccable records and reputations for integrity) and Trump's political appointees, all of whom were his supporters, not "never-Trumpers." None of the witnesses was pursuing a personal crusade against Trump or his policies. Each answered a subpoena that compelled him or her to appear and tell the truth under oath. The result was an unequivocal, uncontroverted factual predicate supporting the serious allegations against Trump as well as his incredible dishonesty.

The hearings were thorough and painted an incredibly clear picture. Gordon Sondland, who donated \$1,000,000 to Trump, effectively purchasing his ambassadorship to the EU, testified that Trump orchestrated a quid pro quo, essentially bribing Ukraine to announce an improper and baseless investigation to get the \$400 million military aid package they desperately needed. Every witness wholly corroborated the facts of Trump's abuse of power. Collectively, they painted an irrefutable picture.

With nowhere to go, Trump and Republicans chose to dishonor themselves by furthering their unprecedented campaign of dishonesty and deceit. Their strategy was to deny, distract, and distort at any cost. They persisted no matter how ridiculous, how contrary to proven facts, or how dangerous their tactics were to the country. Trump banks on the notion that the American people, especially his base, are ignorant and uninformed. They will not watch the hearings or read about them and thus are extremely susceptible to whatever farfetched machinations Trump spins. The fact that the polls did not move after the hearings and the country remains evenly split on impeachment ratifies this despicable approach.

They asserted that Trump was merely focused on anti-corruption efforts. The evidence is much to the contrary. The State Department, Intelligence Community, and Department of Defense had all reviewed the Ukrainian arms sale and officially certified that Ukraine had taken the proper steps against corruption. Trump removed a highly effective and respected ambassador, Marie Yovanovitch, who was a committed anti-corruption champion, solely because she would not support HIS corruption. In almost 3 years in office, Trump has not shown any interest whatsoever in corruption anywhere in the world, including his own administration, yet he wants people to believe that in this once instance that was his only concern.

Republicans baselessly accuse Democrats of an unfair process, but the reality is that the process was established and enacted by the Republican majority led by then-Speaker John Boehner. Republicans falsely claim the White House did not have the opportunity to participate or to

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, January 2020, p. 3.

challenge the evidence. They most certainly did. However, the administration has chosen to obstruct and distort, intimidate witnesses, issue false statements, refuse to comply with subpoenas, and prevent witnesses from testifying or turning over documents. President Trump, Secretary Pompeo, Chief of Staff Mulvaney, and other leaders all refused to testify. Republicans claimed the case was all hearsay with no primary witnesses. They cannot properly make that claim when they are withholding evidence and preventing the primary witnesses from participating. Republicans put on a fallacious display to gain access to the depositions, falsely claiming they were not allowed into the hearing. The truth is that the committees that conducted the depositions were the standing committees on which they had full membership, all members had the ability to attend, and most Republicans fully participated.

The truth is clear and the facts incontrovertible. Anyone paying attention knows what Trump did and believe it to be wrong. The focus is on what should happen. Now that the House has impeached Trump, the Senate must determine what sanction to impose. Republicans want the country to acquiesce around the reality that we have a corrupt president and this is just how Trump does things. "Get over it..." They want us to simply accept that Trump uses personal and private means to conduct official business, all in secret from Congress and the American people. This is what they do in Russia and authoritarian regimes. It is not what we do in the U.S. and in free democracies. The rule of law and the Constitution must always reign supreme. It is highly unlikely the Senate will do its duty. The duty will be with the American people in November to ensure Trump leaves office and we return to our democratic traditions.