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WHAT IS OBSTRUCTION OF CONGRESS?

By Steve Bakke  November 24, 2019



First came Robert Mueller's Trump/Russia investigation, which morphed into the House impeachment hearings. The narrative has changed from charges of obstruction and abuse of power, to quid-pro-quo, to extortion and bribery, and finally back to quid-pro-quo for some, and obstruction for others. The almost inevitable articles of impeachment will probably touch on all of these.

Letters in the November 24 News-Press offered concern that the President was culpable regarding attempts made to block certain witness testimony: "Trump has the trifecta of perpetrator, obstructer and concealer.....let subpoenaed witnesses testify"; and ".....all people involved should be questioned. Preventing testimony.....indicates the accused feels guilt."

Trump asserted executive privilege to block certain testimony during the impeachment hearings, and democrats charged "obstruction." Contrary to the democrats' claim, it's not an impeachable obstruction for a president to claim executive privilege in any situation. Executive privilege was established in the Constitution to defend the legitimate power of the presidency. In fact, the president is duty-bound to use it when appropriate. If Congress disagrees with reasons for those claims, the remedy is clear: go to court, not impeach.