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IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS SIMPLIFIED

By Steve Bakke  December 26, 2019



The Trump impeachment proceedings boil down to some simple concepts.

The “obstruction of Congress” Article of Impeachment challenges the legitimate precedent of “executive privilege.” Legal precedent acknowledges executive privilege as a presidential right, and Trump asserted it by preventing certain officials from testifying and withholding requested documents. Congress, a coequal branch, is entitled to object to that assertion. House democrats summarily declared Trump’s assertion illegal and based the “obstruction” charge on Trump’s assertion. However, a better, alternative remedy was to argue their objection in court as was done in the Watergate investigation. But democrats didn’t want to take the time.

The “abuse of power” Article relates primarily to Trump asking Ukraine to investigate possible Biden family corruption during the Obama administration and allegedly tying it to military aid. Dating from the 1980s, a Senate approved treaty with Ukraine requires cooperation in corruption investigations. Therefore, the mere request isn’t problematic. However, the official charge implies that a presidential challenger can’t be investigated by a current president, even if questionable events had occurred. That’s nonsense. The Barisma/Biden relationship deserves scrutiny. It was commonly known, but never investigated or debunked. It was simply disregarded.

There’s more, but that’s it in a nutshell.