

BRIGHT

Wednesday, January 22, 2020



[#Impeachgate Update: The Trial Begins](#)

It became clear yesterday during Senate opening statements why Democrats wanted to bounce the President's lead counsel in the impending impeachment trial, as attorney Pat Cipollone laid out the case against the House's articles. At one point, after referencing the release of the Ukraine call transcript, Cipollone looked right at Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and said "how's that for transparency?"

[More](#) from John Daniel Davidson:

"Lead White House counsel Pat A. Cipollone made a fiery opening statement Tuesday

in the Senate impeachment trial, arguing in favor of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's proposed rules and saying that once the senators hear the initial presentations, they will conclude President Trump has done 'absolutely nothing wrong' and that there 'is no case' against him."

More impeachment reads:

- Pelosi Knows Impeachment is Weak – Rep. Doug Collins ([MSM](#))
- An in-depth analysis of the impeachment charge text – Eric Felten ([RealClear Investigations](#))
- Why Schiff was a bad choice if Dems are hoping to sway votes – Erielle Davidson ([The Federalist](#))

From the 30,000-foot perspective, given the likelihood of a partisan or near-partisan acquittal and possible re-election of a president after being impeached by the House, what will this episode do to one of Congress' most important Constitutional tools?

Dave Marcus says partisan use of impeachment is a "[dangerous new normal](#)," while over at the newly-revived Federalist Radio Hour (yaaaaaaas), Gene Healy of the Cato Institute [makes](#) the opposite argument – we should be impeaching presidents a lot more often!

Meanwhile, most Americans, even [contestants on Jeopardy](#), don't even know who Adam Schiff even is, bless their souls.

Impeachment inside the Beltway:



The rest of America:



Democratic Establishment Comes for Bernie

While Republican infighting always results in headlines and CNN contracts for whichever group is mad at the party, the serious divisions in the Democratic Party have not received the same attention. The latest round of shots fired comes from Hillary Clinton, who [slammed](#) Bernie Sanders in her docuseries set to premier at Sundance (because of course).

“He was in Congress for years. He had one senator support him. Nobody likes him, nobody wants to work with him, he got nothing done. He was a career politician. It’s all just baloney, and I feel so bad that people got sucked into it,” Clinton said in the self-titled *Hillary*.

When asked about the comments in an interview in the *Hollywood Reporter*, Hillary doubled down, echoing Elizabeth Warren in accusing not just Bernie, but his team and supporters, of sexism. Clinton also declined to give a straight answer to the question of whether or not she would support Sanders if he were to secure the nomination.

I’m on record multiple times making the [argument](#) that Republicans should fear Bernie Sanders in 2020 more than Biden. With pluralities or outright majorities of each side expressing real anger about the way things have been run for the last three decades, Republicans would be foolish to write off Bernie. An old Communist he may be, but an authentic one, which is why the accusations from congenital liars like Warren and Clinton seem to ring so false.

I predict the establishment attacks on Bernie will only help him in the primary, if the octogenarian can raise himself to the challenge of actually counterattacking those knifing him in the back.

Fashion Moment of the Week

A little YouTube [preview](#) of 2020's biggest trends, including polka dots, oversize blazers, fashioned-up trenches, and a continuation of the 2019 statement sleeve craze. (THANK THE LORD, bike shorts are on their way out. Whew.)

Hot tip: if you don't want to sit through the product placement, start around 2:30 in the video.

Wednesday Links

Trump addresses Davos forum. ([RealClear Politics](#))

Walter Russell Mead on the populist nightmare of the Davos set. ([WSJ](#))

VDH on progressive petards. See: hoisted on one's own. ([American Greatness](#))

Tim Tebow got married and there are pics. ([USA Today](#))

Greta Thunberg scolds both Davos attendees and Trump on climate. When does she go back to school, exactly? ([AP News](#))

The latest Lady Gaga single, "Stupid Love," gets leaked and it's an early-Gaga reminiscent bop. ([Page Six](#))

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