

Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3 -- The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled

MeetToImpeach.com

FEATURE: **Impeachment: week in review**

A weekly one paragraph summary report and analysis, followed by recaps (with links) of representative on-line articles and essays – typically 800 to 1,600 words.

Week ending 1/28/2018 (~1,050 words)

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Minneapolis 1/30/18 Edition – After a short-term resolution of the first Government Shutdown of 2018, President Trump appeared heading, at least superficially, towards a more moderate course. The “Dreamers” issue was deferred to February 8th, as were complicating factors related to the broader immigration issue. President Trump gave what his supporters billed as a “conciliatory” address at the economic conference in Davos, Switzerland, and appeared to be preparing to work in a bi-partisan manner on other issues. Supporters have been encouraging President Trump to be more conciliatory at the national level during his State of the Union speech. Compromises may be offered on several issues, including immigration (broadly speaking) and transportation infrastructure. It is unknown whether that is likely to succeed in blunting talk and advocacy favoring then impeachment of President Trump. Meanwhile, reports that President Trump was ready to act by firing special counsel Robert Mueller last June -- and was only deterred when he was advised the consequences could be disastrous -- are still receiving further attention.

“Fire Mueller” threat was very real last June -- still smolders

The [NY Times reported](#) President Trump ordered his White House Counsel to fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller in June of 2017, but backed down after his chief White House lawyer, Donald McGahn told others at the White House he would quit rather than carry out the order. Mueller subsequently learned of this course of events during his investigation of potential

campaign collusion with the Russians, which has expanded to an inquiry about possible obstruction of justice. White House attorney Ty Cobb, who is the interface with the Mueller investigation, declined to comment. Mr. Cobb and Mr. Mueller have worked together over decades -- Mr. Cobb is reported to have advised President Trump that the investigation will soon be complete, and that the best course of action is to cooperate with the investigation.

The [Wall Street Journal reports](#) President Trump denied reports that he tried to fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller in June of 2017. "Fake news, fake news" was the President's response to a question about a NY Times article that broke the story.

The [NY Times reports](#) the recent and sudden departure of FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe highlights the impact of criticisms of his performance, and more generally, allegations of bias at the agency against President Trump. McCabe had planned to continue until reaching 30 years of service and retiring March 18th -- however, he concluded he was being pressured to leave, but choose to announce his plans and then go on leave until the scheduled retirement date, when retirement rights will be secured. McCabe's departure comes amid the anticipated release of an FBI Inspector General's report that is expected to be critical of the agency's handling of the Hillary Clinton e-mail investigation. The Times reports: "The [Inspector General's] report is expected to address whether Mr. McCabe should have recused himself from the Clinton investigation because of his wife's failed State Senate campaign, in which she accepted nearly a half-million dollars in contributions from the political organization of Terry McAuliffe, then the governor of Virginia, who is a longtime friend of Mrs. Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton."

At the [NY Times](#), columnist David Leonhardt pegs Nunes' move to push for release of "the memo" as "The Nunes Conspiracy." Leonhardt's take is that this is all a distraction to muddy the waters and discredit the Mueller investigation specifically, and the entire process more generally, writing: "The smearing of [Mueller and Rosenstein], like the smearing of Comey, is a ploy. At the least, it is meant to call into question the ultimate findings of the Russia investigation. At the worst, the smearing is meant to make it politically possible to replace one or both with Trump loyalists who don't believe in the rule of law." Leonhardt concludes by quoting Tom Nichols, a Naval War College professor: "The memo itself is far less important than the fact that GOP Congressmen are now at war with our own law enforcement and intelligence

community, something in a lifetime of being a Republican I never expected to see. This will end badly.”

[Greg Sargent at the Washington Post suggests](#) that a pattern of actions by both the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress may amount to "a greater threat than Nixon" in undermining the rule of law. The recent decision by Rep. Devin Nunes, Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, to release a memo critical of Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein is only part of the picture -- Sargent writes: "The Nunes memo shows there is a massive propaganda apparatus out there — one that reaches deep into the right-wing media and into the Congress that has been pushing the alt-narrative and would back up Trump if he does take drastic steps — that didn't really exist in Nixon's time." Sargent recounts being told this by Tim Weiner, a veteran journalist and author of a recent and critical history of the FBI: "We are seeing a repeat of Watergate at warp speed. If Trump moves to tear down the temple by firing Mueller and Rosenstein and putting in a platoon of stooges in charge of the administration of justice, and if Congress does nothing, then it will be beyond anything that Watergate presented.”

Calls for impeachment continue

The [Star Tribune reports](#) Minnesota's Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) became the first Minnesota member of Congress to co-sponsor the impeachment of President Trump. She is the ninth co-sponsor of Articles introduced by Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN) based on alleged obstruction of justice and personal enrichment violating the Constitution's emoluments clauses. McCollum represents a heavily DFL district including all of Saint Paul and suburbs primarily to the north and east; Hillary Clinton won her district 62% to 31% in 2016. McCollum joined with Minnesota Representatives Keith Ellison and Tim Walz in voting for Articles of Impeachment introduced by Rep. Al Green (D-TX) -- that effort lost last year, with a total of 58 Democrats voting in favor of impeachment.

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