

*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 Monday one paragraph summary report and analysis, followed by recaps (with links) of representative on-line articles and essays – typically 800 to 1,000 words.

**Week ending 12/10/2017 (~1,450 words)**

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**Minneapolis 12/11/17 Edition** (delayed release)– This past week saw the first formal, recorded House impeachment vote, which failed by a lopsided six-to-one margin; supporting the view of House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi and others that impeachment is presently premature at best. However, significant reporting on the Mueller investigation indicates both the pace and the focus of it appear to be increasing. The focus is on a possible charge of Obstruction of Justice against President Trump, which could take the form of a criminal indictment, or a referral to the House for consideration of impeachment, or both. A number of individuals are now under investigation, and at least two, former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and former Trump campaign advisor George Papadopoulos, are cooperating witnesses. Because long prison sentences can often be a consequence of a single count of moving money internationally, the potential for cooperation from other subjects of investigation, former Campaign Manager Paul Manafort in particular, is significant. It appears clear that any decision by President Trump to fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller would have catastrophic political consequences for the Trump Administration – comparable or worse than the “Saturday Night Massacre” aftermath when President Nixon order Independent Counsel Archibald Cox fired in 1973. All of this is happening in the context of significant year-end uncertainty, including the fate of the Republican drive for what they call “tax reform” and the need to resolve such issues as a still-possible government shutdown, and the fate of the “Dreamers.”

## **Mueller investigation reporting: focus and pace may be increasing**

[NBC News reports](#) Special Counsel Robert Mueller appears to be focusing on a crucial 19-day period: starting Jan. 26th, 2017, when Acting Attorney General Sally Yates told White House Counsel Don McGhan that National Security Advisor Michael Flynn had not been truthful to senior Trump Administration officials, including the Vice President; Flynn had talked with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak about U.S. sanctions, and Flynn could be vulnerable to blackmail. Former Press Secretary Sean Spicer said McGhan briefed President Trump and others about his conversation with Yates the same day. If there is solid evidence that President Trump knew Flynn had lied to the FBI before he reportedly attempted to get FBI Director James Comey not to pursue an investigation of Flynn, that would increase the gravity of a charge of obstruction of justice against President Trump. Flynn was fired Feb. 13th, 18 days after the conversation between Yates and McGhan.

A [Bloomberg BusinessWeek analysis](#) argues the Mueller Investigation "got some insurance" when Gen. Michael Flynn became a cooperating witness -- concluding even if Mueller is removed, the investigation is likely to continue. It has become evident that significant aspects of the investigation are focusing on financial transactions, which could lead to both federal and state charges -- state charges are beyond the President's pardon power. Even a decision to fire Mueller, while probably itself legal, would certainly trigger an uproar comparable to the "Saturday Night Massacre" -- when President Nixon ordered Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox to be fired. Both Attorney General Elliot Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William French Smith refused to fire Professor Cox, and resigned, before Solicitor General Robert Bork carried out President Nixon's order.

Albert Hunt offers up "two certainties" in a [BloombergView opinion article](#): the Mueller Investigation won't end soon, and it's going to get uglier. Hunt believes many Trump defenses "seem to be unraveling" along "three avenues" of the Mueller investigation: "Did the Trump team aid and abet the Russian efforts to hack and steal e-mails with an eye toward influencing with [sic] the U.S. presidential election? Did the president try to obstruct the investigation into those efforts? What was the nature of any financial arrangements Trump may have had with Russians linked to the Kremlin?" Hunt cautions Trump is likely to fight furiously, possibly even calling on his hard-core supporters to "protest" -- whatever that might mean or imply... possibly

taking to the streets -- unlike President Nixon, who realized the inevitable and resigned.

In a [Time Magazine essay](#), Robert Anderson, a former assistant Director of CounterIntelligence under then-FBI Director Mueller, asserts that people who become involved in the kind of situations Mueller is investigating often run afoul of laws regulating the international transfer of money -- in many instances such laws provide for 20 years in prison for a single violation. Such violations are a powerful tool for inducing accused individuals to cooperate. Anderson concludes: "when the people who may be cooperating with the investigation start consensually recording conversations, it's all over."

In a [NY Times opinion article](#), Professor Bob Bauer, a former White House Counsel for President Obama, argues critics of the Mueller investigation, including the Trump Administration, should let it proceed because it is uniquely equipped to make a judgment on any criminal intent President Trump may have in firing FBI Director Comey. Bauer asserts that Congress is not suited to make this determination in the way the Special Council is suited. Even if the Trump Administration prevails in arguing that the President is not subject to criminal indictment because his intent in exercising constitutional power to fire Comey is legally irrelevant, it may be relevant to Congress, since they can characterize "high Crimes and Misdemeanors" in a distinct way from criminal law.

## **First House vote on Impeachment fails by a lopsided six-to-one margin**

[Politico reports](#) the first House vote on Impeachment, brought by Rep. Al Green (D-TX) failed on a lopsided vote of 364 opposed to impeachment, and 58 in favor; about a six to one margin. However, this represents the highest number of Representatives voting for any impeachment of a President since President Clinton was impeached on a close, highly partisan vote by the Republican-controlled House in 1998. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and other top House Democrats, urged Democrats to vote against impeachment in a closed-door meeting.

[The Hill reports](#) Vermont's Independent/Socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders is saying "Jumping the gun on impeachment" will do no good. "You have to bring the American people on to this issue. You don't want to make it a partisan issue," Sanders told NBC's "Meet the Press."

## **The “Mainstream Media” is accused of multiple major reporting blunders**

[An Axios article](#) – amplified by this screaming DRUDGE REPORT Headline: "THREE BIG MEDIA SCREW-UPS IN WEEK" -- claims: 1) ABC incorrectly reported that Michael Flynn would testify that while a candidate, Trump directed him to contact Russian officials -- that direction was given by President-elect Trump after the election; 2) Reuters and Bloomberg incorrectly reported Mueller had subpoenaed Deutsche Bank for account information relating to President Trump and his family; the WSJ then reported the subpoenaed records were actually for people and entities close to Trump; 3) CNN reported senior Trump campaign officials had received an e-mail September 4, 2016 with a link to "what could have been" unreleased WikiLeaks documents; the Washington Post then reported the e-mails were sent September 14th, and linked to WikiLeaks documents released a day earlier.

[The Daily Caller reports](#) in more detail on the major error CNN (example 3 above) made due to mis-reporting the date of the September 4th e-mail regarding WikiLeaks documents. The thrust of the Daily Caller article is how little information CNN has subsequently provided as to how their mistake came about. Based on the Daily Caller report, CNN appears to be stonewalling the efforts of other media organization to investigate and learn from CNN's mistake.

**Trump vs. protesting NFL players – week 12** -- The DRUDGE REPORT continues to feature [Breitbart's continuing reports](#) on large swaths of empty seats in NFL stadiums, often just before kickoff time. The reporting appears to be compilations of tweets, which have photos and date and time stamps; it's uncertain whether the association of the photos with the date and time stamps can be verified. Brietbart reports many NFL athletes are continuing to protest during the National anthem. This story will no longer be reported on a continuing weekly basis in *Impeachment: Week in Review*, unless it re-emerges in the "Mainstream Media."

**Approval/Disapproval polls – Impeachment Odds** -- [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#), which has been updating a continuing feature, shows results are virtually unchanged from late October to December 6th -- currently 57% disapprove of President Trump, while 39% approve. Most recently, a 40% chance is reported that he will not complete his first term -- which could be the result of impeachment -- this has been steady for five weeks.

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