

Freedom's View

A Commentary on Government from Atop the Capitol

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PHOTO: National Statuary Hall, U. S. Capitol, where a speaker yards away can be overheard by others.

House Democratic Congressmen Overheard Plotting Extreme Vetting of President Trump *Somewhat Cooler Heads Prevail*

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WASHINGTON, DC ~ It's tough to keep a secret in Washington. On Friday, GOP lawmakers met in a closed door meeting to discuss delaying the dismantling of Obamacare. Instead they debated the best methods for extinguishing the fires that threatened to consume their hair, whether genuine or otherwise. A tape recorder was running and the press had an "unimpeachable" source for the story. ("Unimpeachable" may not be a word that applies to everything GOP in the future. Stay tuned.)

Many of our 16 reporters standing nearby overheard a number of Democratic Representatives discussing ways to use "extreme vetting" in order to get the truth out of President Trump concerning the nature of the continuing ties to his businesses. They also were concerned to discover the nature of his financial dealings abroad and, in particular, the President's tax forms. He has said he will refuse to release them even after the IRS is finished with its audit. "Did you read *all* of the draft proposal of his 'Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Attacks by Foreign Nationals,'" one congressman asked another. "He wants to block out those 'who engage in acts of bigotry or hatred, violence against women, and persecution on the basis of religion, race, gender and sexual orientation.' Talk about the pot calling the kettle . . . !" Another was heard to say that "extreme vetting" seems to be a euphemism for discriminating against Muslims. Another mused, "What if the President tries to bring back torture, as he has threatened to do? If he does, that might not be all bad. Maybe then *we could combine it with extreme vetting of him*. Surely *that* would help us see his tax forms and business ties." Shouts of "Huzzah!" were lifted.

It was then that the most senior member of the group reminded his colleagues that, however egregious the President's behavior was, two wrongs weren't going to make it right. "No," he said, "I think we need to offer support to our already fired-up constituents. As local columnist Petula Dvorak put it so well recently: 'Keep it up, protesters, because this time, it's working. You're getting to him. . . . He's a showman, a ringmaster, a ratings junkie. And nothing angers an attention addict more than a bigger, louder show next door.' She said 'It's not going to change policy, but it will rankle and distract him.' And, of course, she said their letters and calls to us before the 2018 elections would have an influence, as would their 'full-throated participation in all levels of the democratic process' Then she gave this splendid suggestion: **'Anti-Trump activists need to go to every single Trump hotel in this country and around the world and set up legal, peaceful, annoying-as-hell vigils. Occupy them day and night. Take shifts, don't leave. Make it really uncomfortable to stay there.'** She concluded: **'Oh, he'll see that. And it will infuriate him. This should be the new normal. This time it will work.'** So how about it? Let's support our base and help them to do exactly that! Are you with me?"

As the chorus of assent grew louder, one of them said, "Hey! Let's organize this thing where no one can hear us!"