

# FBI Director Comey Hearing a Dud for Democrats

by Kenneth R. Timmerman



We truly live in two Americas. Every day the divide between Democrats and Republicans, Trump fans and Trump haters, seems to grow deeper. For the Trump haters, each day brings news of some dastardly treachery, some unprecedented betrayal of America and the American people.

After Monday's hearing with FBI Director James Comey and NSA Director Admiral Mike Rogers, Rep. Maxine Waters tweeted out, "Get ready for impeachment."

She has pinned to the [repeating](#) the wild claims of an opposition research report penned by a former British intelligence officer, claims so fantastical that not even "journalists" at CNN – let alone the CIA under Obama appointee John Brennan – have been able to [claimed breathlessly](#) that Comey confirmed that "an active and open investigation is underway" of alleged ties between the Trump campaign and Russian officials, a "story that dominated today and will keep

dominating the headlines into tomorrow.”

Williams, of course, was demoted to MSNBC after his claims of having been shot down in a U.S. Army helicopter in Iraq in 2003 [confirm one thing](#) of substance: that neither he nor the Justice Department had any information that could substantiate Trump’s tweets about Obama ordering the “wiretapping” of Trump Tower.

While that caused a tempest in the Twitter teacup for a few hours (and undoubtedly will contribute to the prosperity of the psychiatrists treating Trump derangement syndrome), forgotten in the maelstrom was the significance of Comey’s statement.

[Donald Trump](#) never claimed that he had access to intelligence information in making that spectacular claim about his predecessor. As he told Tucker Carlson [New York Times account](#) of the Comey hearing.

One other exchange during the hearing is worthy of note. Republican Rep. [Trey Gowdy](#) grilled Comey on who might have leaked the identity of a Trump administration official discovered during a FISA-court ordered wiretap of Russians.

The identities of U.S. persons whose conversations get swept up in foreign intelligence surveillance and FISA-court controlled wiretaps are closely protected. At NSA, twenty people have the authority to “unmask” them. Comey revealed that officials at FBI, CIA, and the Department of Justice have similar authority, as did the acting Attorney General at the time of the leaks, Sally Yates, and then National Security advisor Susan Rice.

“Can you ensure the American people that (the leaks) will be investigated?” Gowdy asked.

When Comey said that he could not give such a guarantee, Gowdy went steely cold. “One thing you and I agree on is the

felonious dissemination of classified material most definitely is a crime," [The Hill](#).

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