

I am not an attorney. I am not a politician. I have held only one elective office, a school board position years ago. But, I can read. And I did. Runo—for whom English is a second language—and I read the entire report of Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III. And, if I were Runo, I would probably have second thoughts about having left my home country—especially one with a health care system—for life in the United States of America, where a person elected to the highest office in the nation could wantonly commit obstruction of justice, robbing all of us of confidence in our system of government.

Donald Trump is guilty as sin. How the Attorney General of the United States could whitewash the findings of the Special Counsel in a carefully timed four page summary days before the Mueller report came out and have people actually accept his words is beyond belief. I am beginning to wonder if Barr even read the report. I am relatively certain that most of the people in Congress—at least on the Republican side of the aisle—have not read it. They should.

We read Volume II of the Special Counsel's report out loud so that we could comment as we went along, noting each of our reactions to the information it contained. Mueller not only did NOT exonerate Trump, he showed in black and white the obstructive actions Trump took.

Mueller also explained that the written answers to the Counsel's questions—Trump refused to be interviewed in person—were unsatisfactory. When we read them, it was very clear why the Special Counsel phrased it in that way. Trump answered nothing. He remembered nothing. He recalled nothing.

Some of the Special Counsel's report is worth quoting directly. On page 157 of Volume II it reads: "Obstruction of justice can be motivated by a desire to protect non-criminal personal interests, to protect against investigations where underlying criminal liability falls into a gray area, or to avoid personal embarrassment. The injury to the integrity of the justice system is the same regardless of whether a person committed an underlying wrong.

"In this investigation, the evidence does not establish that the President was involved in an underlying crime related to Russian election interference. But the evidence does point to a range of other possible personal motives animating the President's conduct. These include concerns that continued investigation would call into question the legitimacy of his election and potential uncertainty about whether certain events—such as advance notice of WikiLeaks's release of hacked information or the June 9, 2016 meeting between senior campaign officials and Russians—could be seen as criminal activity by the President, his campaign, or his family."

And, a few paragraphs later: "Our investigation found multiple acts by the President that were capable of exerting undue influence over law enforcement investigations, including the Russian-interference and obstruction investigations. The incidents were often carried out through one-on-one meetings in which the President sought to use his official power outside of usual channels. These actions ranged from efforts to remove the Special Counsel and to reverse the effect of the Attorney General's recusal; to the

attempted use of official power to limit the scope of the investigation; to direct and indirect contacts with witnesses with the potential to influence their testimony. Viewing the acts collectively can help to illuminate their significance. For example, the President's direction to McGahn to have the Special Counsel removed was followed almost immediately by his direction to Lewandowski to tell the Attorney General to limit the scope of the Russia investigation to prospective election-interference only—a temporal connection that suggests that both acts were taken with a related purpose with respect to the investigation.

“The President's efforts to influence the investigation were mostly unsuccessful, but that is largely because the persons who surrounded the President declined to carry out orders or accede to his requests.”

The Mueller Report is not hard to get, and it is written in such clear and concise prose that it is easily understandable by any literate person. I downloaded the report—the redacted version, of course, since it is the only one available—and printed the whole thing out. With redactions and footnotes, only some of which need to be read, the 448 pages turn out to be a lot less. All I can say to anyone who can support Donald Trump is to read the report. I challenge you to read the whole thing. Whether impeachment is the logical course for Congress to take can be debated, especially considering that so many Republican Senators have forgotten that they swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States. But, Trump needs to go, Barr must resign, and a whole lot of Americans need to read the Special Counsel's report.