THE FRESNO BEES

The dirty little secrets of the Valley's propaganda machine

SEPTEMBER 2018
Dear Concerned Citizen,

On behalf of Devin’s campaign committee, we’re responding to the Fresno Bee’s personal attacks on Devin and by extension on us.

We have implemented sound strategies for Devin to ensure the Valley’s strong representation in Washington, and for Devin to travel the country to help elect other Republicans who will support water and other Valley priorities.

Based on our direct, personal experience, we know that the Bee’s stories attacking Devin are entirely false. Derived from baseless insinuations by liberal groups, this reporting violates basic journalistic standards on ethics, objectivity, and fact-checking.

As lifelong members of the Valley community and as overseers of Devin’s campaign activities, we view these false charges by the Bee as intolerable attacks on our own integrity and honesty.

Sincerely,

Bob Smittcamp
Nunes Campaign Chairman
Fresno County Businessman
Philanthropist

Tony Souza
Nunes Campaign Finance Director
Tulare County Businessman
Retired Farmer
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TULARE SCHOOL TARGETED BY L.A. MAN

Fresno Bee reports false allegations stemming from a political operation against Devin’s wife

Devin’s wife is a third grade teacher in a Tulare County public school. Looking for dirt on Devin, a man from Los Angeles forced her school to give him all her emails from her school email account. The small, rural school had to spend thousands of dollars on attorneys’ fees due to this demand, which coincided with online attacks on Devin’s wife. The school even had to enhance security for its students and teachers because of this situation. Information from the emails was provided to the left-wing activist group Campaign for Accountability and used as a basis for the group to file one of several frivolous ethics complaints against Devin. The Fresno Bee reported the group’s allegations without determining whether they were true and without disclosing that emails obtained from Devin’s wife in this manner provided a basis for the complaint.

“School districts and their respective schools should be able to focus on the needs of their students and communities, without being dragged onto the political stage for political battles that are clearly distractions from the primary goal of providing all students a safe environment in which to learn.”

Matt Navo
Retired school superintendent
Clovis resident

"Our community demands that our children are educated and it is the responsibility of the school district to make that happen. Our limited and valuable resources are wasted when political or personal agendas generate frivolous requests and attorney costs. We must not tolerate this type of behavior."

Stephen Fogg, MD
Clovis Unified School District Board Member
The Fresno Bee and Janz make false allegations

Responding to a press release put out by Democrat Andrew Janz’ campaign, the Fresno Bee reported that Devin’s uncle confronted Janz campaign operatives while they were preparing to shoot a political commercial on a Valley farm. In its initial report on the incident, the Bee failed to mention that the campaign and its camera crew from Hollywood were trespassing on Devin’s family’s farm. Afterward, Janz falsely claimed that Devin sent his uncle to try to stop the filming, that his uncle called the Sheriff’s Department, and that the Sheriff’s deputies told his uncle to go home. The Fresno Bee failed to report that all these claims are contradicted by the Sheriff’s report on the incident.

“It’s too coincidental that out of the million farmed acres in Tulare county, a camera crew from Hollywood would end up on the Nunes family farm. Since a grower is responsible for the land he farms on, I don’t blame them for not wanting people wandering around their property.”

Brian Watte
Tulare County farmer

“Seems pretty clear to me—these people showed up on his farm so he told them to leave. I don’t know why they would have expected something different.”

-Mike Thomason
Fresno businessman
Farmer

Janz’ tweet including false claims contradicted by the Sheriff’s Department report. Janz turned his trespassing into a fundraising opportunity by intentionally tweeting lies about the incident.

A very nice family let me shoot a video about water on their farm. @DevinNunes sent his one of his relatives to try to stop us. The deputies he called showed up & told him to go home. Donate here if you think Devin & his relative are triggered snowflakes! secure.actblue.com/contribute/pag...
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CREEPING BEE REPORTERS

Bee questions
Nunes’ neighbors
after activists
target his home

In February 2017, political activists were bused in to Devin’s neighborhood to demonstrate near his home. Devin’s wife and daughters were home alone at the time. The media extensively covered the political stunt, and instead of criticizing this invasive activity, the Fresno Bee glamorized the event by sending a reporter to question Devin’s neighbors about the congressman.

Istvan Potorke, MD
Nunes’ neighbor
Tulare resident

“I came to America decades ago to escape communism in Eastern Europe. Having political radicals and the press descend on my neighborhood isn’t something I thought I’d ever see here. It was the first time I’ve ever had to keep my gun at my side in my home.”

“I’ve served on the Tulare City Council for twenty years, and I’ve never seen anything like this in Tulare. We had to deploy city resources, including law enforcement, to protect residents from these activists. Targeting someone’s home is not something our communities should accept as normal, and neither should the press. Devin’s wife and 3 girls deserve to feel safe in their own home.”

Dave Macedo
Tulare business owner
Tulare City Council Member
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CREEPING BEE REPORTERS
STRIKE AGAIN

Fresno Bee reporter creeps around the home of Devin's 98 year old grandmother

Reporters have repeatedly shown up at the home of Devin's 98-year-old grandmother on her family farm. A Fresno Bee reporter even went to her home uninvited and took pictures around her property without permission.

“Just because a person is related to someone who’s well known doesn’t mean that person and her property should be subject to intrusions by reporters. I don’t see any legitimate public interest at all in investigating a public figure’s 98 year old grandmother.”

Connie Conway
Former Republican Leader of the California State Assembly

“I don't care if they’re Democrat, independent, or Republican, families shouldn't be harassed in their homes, especially our elderly family members.”

Mariann Hedstrom
Chairman
Republican Party of Tulare County
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“RESISTANCE” TARGETS CLOVIS OFFICE BUILDING

Liberal campaign activists drive businesses from downtown Clovis

This year, small groups of activists associated with the Janz campaign and left-wing “resistance” organizations have regularly staged campaign events outside Devin’s Clovis office building. Due to the noise, business disruptions, and blocking of traffic, the building’s tenants have repeatedly been forced to call law enforcement. The Fresno Bee extensively glamorizes the campaign stunts by reporting the activists’ talking points, and even uses them as the basis for entire stories, while ignoring the disruptions to local businesses. They never acknowledge that these events are in fact campaign stunts.

Skip Tyson
Manager
Sentinel Building, Clovis

Janz leaves package of unknown material at Nunes’ office door. The building management called the Clovis Police in fear of the package. The police removed it from the building.

"These dumb stunts achieve nothing except to make things hard for the small businesses here. I've lost tenants due to these demonstrations. Tenants are tired of having to call the police on the activists who verbally assault and threaten our clients and staff."

Andrew Janz
Apr 17 at 8:57pm • Instagram

On Tuesdays, we protest Nunes #CA22

Janz boasts about skipping work on Tuesdays to lead campaign events that disrupt and harass local business owners in Downtown Clovis. Instead of working, he spends his time organizing his political stunts.

Even though he is paid by Fresno County to be a prosecutor, Janz can frequently be found leading campaign events and spends his paid work time tweeting.
BEE CREATES FAKE NEWS

Bee reporter participates in political stunt at Nunes office

A Fresno Bee reporter appeared outside Devin’s Clovis office with Democrat Andrew Janz and resistance members. The reporter, Janz, and other activists entered the building, and Janz demanded access to Devin’s office. The building’s staff asked the group to leave. As detailed in the Clovis Police report on the incident, Janz refused to leave and the Sentinel Building staff called the police.

This political stunt was carried out for the benefit of HBO’s Vice News, which met with the Bee reporter that day and filmed the staged incident at the office. Afterward, Janz falsely claimed Devin’s staff had been the ones who called the police. The Bee reporter did not mention this falsehood in her report, nor did she report that Janz refused to leave the building when asked. Furthermore, the Bee has never mentioned how unusual it is for residents to repeatedly report a Fresno County prosecutor such as Janz to the police, and for a prosecutor to repeatedly lie about who reported him.

In the Vice broadcast, when asked if the Bee is “giving up” on Nunes supporters, the Bee editor replied, “I wouldn’t say I’m giving up on them, but I do think that there are some people who, you’re just never going to convince them.” This staged event makes it clear the Bee is coordinating with the Janz campaign and national media to slander Devin and his family and friends.

“I am tired of being personally harassed by the Janz campaign. I am forced to call local law enforcement nearly every week because of his supporters and the local news media that accompany them. I have no other option because I see firsthand the disruption of family therapy sessions and the burden these demonstrations place on local business owners and their clients.”

-Holly McCarty
Sentinel Building employee

Andrew Janz
@JanzforCongress
US House candidate, CA-22

Great job to @ClovisPolice_CA for keeping the peace and allowing demonstrators to exercise their 1st Amendment rights. Nunes’ people keep calling the police wasting law enforcement resources. This is not what 911 was designed for. Nunes’ office is public property paid for by us.

Mackenzie Mays @MackenzieMays
Myself and others tried to see if anyone was available in @DevinNunes office...

10:17 AM - 14 Aug 18

Myself and others tried to see if anyone was available in @DevinNunes office, where a rally is being held outside. Front office staff called the police and kicked me out.

Mackenzie Mays
@MackenzieMays

Bee reporter Mackenzie Mays, participating in Janz’ campaign stunt for the Vice media cameras pictured behind her.

10:17 AM - 14 Aug 18
Loud activists disrupt businesses in downtown Visalia building

Similar to the situation in Clovis, Janz campaign activists have staged numerous campaign stunts outside and even inside Devin’s Visalia office building. The disruptions caused by the liberal groups, including beating drums, sit-ins, and the occupation of Devin’s office itself, have been so severe that the building’s tenants have been forced to call the police, and Devin’s office had to implement new security protocols. Nevertheless, the media reports sympathetically on the events, even glamorizing them. The Bee ignores the problems these stunts cause to local businesses. It also ignores the fact that left-wing organizations are supporting Valley “resistance” activists by flooding the Valley with millions of dollars in “dark” money that cannot be traced to its true source.

Mike Fistolera
Owner/Partner of Visalia office building

“One demonstration on Devin’s floor was so loud that no one could get anything done. They kept it up until one of the tenants called the police. I wish these activists showed more respect for other people and local businesses.”
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BEE REPORTERS SLANDER AG BUSINESS

Fresno Bee uses false information to slander a California family-run ag business

The Fresno Bee ran multiple articles slandering a California family-run winery, Alpha Omega, simply because Devin is a partner in the company. In a statement noting the Bee’s numerous untrue and misleading claims, Alpha Omega said, “We would appreciate it if the Fresno Bee would stop regurgitating false stories when it has the facts.”

Craig Saladino
President of Saladino’s Foodservice

“You didn’t have to read far into the story to see the whole report was thoroughly and intentionally misleading. Anyone with basic business knowledge knows that a limited partner (Nunes) in a business doesn’t run the business or know of its day to day activities. Someone wrote into the Bee and called the story ‘yellow journalism,’ — they were being polite. It was nothing short of a hit piece, there’s no other description for it. And it’s why the public is increasingly disillusioned with the media.”

Mike Der Manouel, Jr.
Fresno businessman
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BEE CONTINUES ATTACK ON AGRICULTURE

Bee reporters’ jobs don’t depend on AG...apparently

The Fresno Bee ran an opinion column by Mark Arax, an extreme environmentalist with a history of attacking farmers. The column denounced Devin for “stak[ing] out the most extreme position on water in the West” and accused Valley farmers of “siphoning the entire flow of our local rivers and pumping like mad from the aquifer below.”

“Devin has led in the fight to return the water that has been taken from our Valley farms. Billions of gallons of water have been sent to the ocean in the name of the environment with nothing to show for it.”

Tony Campos
Valley farmer

“It’s absurd to blame farmers for finding water wherever we can after the government cut our historical water supply. One has to be arrogant and insensitive to make attacks like that against people who live here.”

Kole Upton
Valley farmer
Long-time water leader
Vulgar Janz activists champion the Fresno Bee

Numerous political activists on social media who attack Devin in vulgar and obscene ways now plead with their readers to subscribe to the Fresno Bee in order to advance the “resistance.” These activists, who run anonymous accounts so they cannot be tracked back to Janz’ campaign staff and supporters, fully understand the Bee is not reporting the facts but is engaged in a prolonged political campaign to attack Devin and replace him with their preferred candidate, Andrew Janz.
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BEE TRUMPETS HOLLYWOOD SUPPORT FOR JANZ

Bee fails to report that Nunes gets major financial support from Valley residents

The Fresno Bee favorably reports on Democrat Andrew Janz’s Hollywood supporters, touting Hollywood liberals like Rosie O’Donnell and Barbara Streisand who donate to Janz’ campaign. Meanwhile, in an article headlined, “Actor Jim Carrey: ‘I’d like to get Devin Nunes out of there forever,’” the Bee found it worthy to report that Jim Carrey criticized Devin.

WHO IS REALLY SUPPORTING ANDREW JANZ?

ActBlue fundraises with the sole purpose of electing Democrats, socialists, and progressives. It has raised over $2 million for Janz.

Rosie O’Donnell gave $3000 to Janz. She is a wildly liberal activist.

Barbra Streisand gave $1000 to Janz. She is vocal in her support of the “Resistance.”

Senator Warren endorsed Janz and is known as the Senate’s most liberal member.

Senator Boxer supports Janz and runs a Super PAC designed to attack Devin Nunes.

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Senator Barbara Boxer
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OUTSIDE GROUP ATTACKS
DEVIN’S FarmING BACKGROUND

Bee hypes liberal group’s anti-Nunes legal stunt

A liberal activist group from outside the Valley organized and paid for a frivolous lawsuit to be filed to stop Devin, who’s been a farmer his entire life, from calling himself a farmer on the voting ballot. The judge’s dismissal of the lawsuit was unsurprising since it was not a legitimate legal challenge. Rather, it was an obvious campaign stunt by a political group that also sent mailers to Valley residents and erected highway billboards to publicize its effort.

Nevertheless, the Fresno Bee hyped and promoted the stunt, publishing a stand-alone story on it, publishing another article in which a person discussed how he helped file the lawsuit, posting a video interview with that person, and publishing a short write-up when the lawsuit was dismissed. The Bee decided not to report how much taxpayer money was wasted by this misuse of our courts as an arena for campaign stunts.

It is ridiculous to claim that Devin is not a farmer. The worst part is that these frivolous cases waste taxpayer dollars and take away time from the real issues facing our state.

Lori Cardoza
Tulare County farmer
College of Sequoias Board Member

DARK MONEY GROUPS FUNDED BY SAN FRANCISCO AND HOLLYWOOD LIBERALS HAVE PLACED NUMEROUS BILLBOARDS AGAINST DEVIN IN THE VALLEY. THEY HAVE NO TIES TO THE AREA BUT THEIR MONEY IS USED TO PULL PEOPLE FROM THE FRINGE OF SOCIETY TO ATTACK DEVIN AND HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
Devin Nunes, Washington’s Public Enemy No.1

What did the FBI do in the 2016 campaign? The head of the House inquiry on what he has found—and questions still unanswered

By Kimberley A. Strassel, Wall Street Journal
July 27, 2018

It’s 105 degrees as I stand with Rep. Devin Nunes on his family’s dairy farm. Mr. Nunes has been feeling even more heat in Washington, where as chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence he has labored to unearth the truth about the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s activities during and after the 2016 presidential campaign. Thanks in large part to his work, we now know that the FBI used informants against Donald Trump’s campaign, that it obtained surveillance warrants based on opposition research conducted for Hillary Clinton’s campaign, and that after the election Obama administration officials “unmasked” and monitored the incoming team.

Mr. Nunes’s efforts have provoked extraordinary partisan and institutional fury in Washington—across the aisle, in the FBI and other law-enforcement and intelligence agencies, in the media. “On any given day there are dozens of attacks, each one wilder in its claims,” he says. Why does he keep at it? “First of all, because it’s my job. This is a basic congressional investigation, and we follow the facts,” he says. The “bigger picture,” he adds, is that in “a lot of the bad and problematic countries” that Intelligence Committee members investigate, “this is what they do there. There is a political party that controls the intelligence agencies, controls the media, all to ensure that party stays in power. If we get to that here, we no longer have a functioning republic. We can’t let that happen.”

Mr. Nunes, 44, was elected to Congress in 2002 from Central California. He joined the Intelligence Committee in 2011 and delved into the statutes, standards and norms that underpin U.S. spying. That taught him to look for “red flags,” information or events that don’t feel right and indicate a deeper problem. He noticed some soon after the 2016 election.

The first: Immediately after joining the Trump transition team, Mr. Nunes faced an onslaught of left-wing claims that he might be in cahoots with Vladimir Putin. It started on social media, though within months outlets such as MSNBC were openly asking if he was a “Russian agent.” “I’ve been a Russia hawk going way back,” he says. “I was the one who only six months earlier had called the Obama administration’s failure to understand Putin’s plans and intentions the largest intelligence failure since 9/11. So these attacks, surreal—big red flag.”

“There was concern I’d figure it out, so they had to get rid of me.”

Mr. Nunes would later come to believe the accusations marked the beginning of a deliberate campaign by Obama officials and the intelligence community to discredit him and sideline him from any oversight effort. “This was November. We, Republicans, still didn’t know about the FBI’s Trump investigation. But they did,” he says. “There was concern I’d figure it out, so they had to get rid of me.”
A second red flag: the sudden rush by a small group of Obama officials to produce a new intelligence assessment before Trump’s inauguration, claiming the Russians had acted in 2016 specifically to elect Mr. Trump. “Nobody disagrees the Russians were trying to muddy up Hillary Clinton. Because everyone on the planet believes that’s what they were trying to do—she was going to win,” Mr. Nunes says. So it “made no sense” that the Obama administration was “working so hard to make the flip argument—to say ‘Oh, no, no. This was all about electing Trump.’” The effort began to make more sense once that rushed intelligence assessment grew into a central premise behind the theory that Mr. Trump’s campaign had colluded with the Russians.

January 2017 also brought then-FBI Director James Comey’s acknowledgment to Congress—the public found out later—that the bureau had been conducting a counterintelligence investigation into the Trump campaign since the previous summer, and that Mr. Comey had actively concealed the probe from Congress. Months earlier, when Mr. Nunes had seen media stories alluding to a Trump investigation, he’d dismissed them. “We’re supposed to get briefed,” he says. “Plus, I was thinking: ‘Come on, we’re good people and would never do this in an election, nah?’

When the facts came out, Mr. Nunes was stunned by the form the investigation took. For years he had been central in updating the laws governing surveillance, metadata collection and so forth. “I would never have conceived of FBI using our counterintelligence capabilities to target a political campaign. If it had crossed any of our minds, I can guarantee we’d have specifically written, ‘Don’t do that,’ “ when crafting legislation, he says. “Counterintelligence is not about trying to steal our nation’s secrets or working with terrorists. This if anything would be a criminal matter.”

Then there was the Christopher Steele dossier, prepared for Mrs. Clinton’s campaign by the opposition-research firm Fusion GPS. Top congressional Republicans got their first briefing about the document, which Mr. Comey later described as “salacious and unverified.” Mr. Nunes remembers Mr. Comey making one other claim. “He said Republicans paid for it. Not true,” Mr. Nunes recalls. “If they had informed us, Christopher Steele and Democrats paid for that dossier, I can guarantee you that Mitch McConnell and Paul Ryan would have laughed and walked out of that meeting.” The Washington Free Beacon website funded by hedge-fund manager Paul Singer, which had earlier hired Fusion GPS to do research on Mr. Trump, but the Beacon’s editors have said that as-sigment did not overlap with the dossier. All these red flags were more than enough to justify a congressional investigation, yet Mr. Nunes says his sleuthing triggered a new effort to pre- vent one. He had been troubled in January 2017 when two reports published in The Daily Beast—between Mike Flynn, Mr. Trump’s first national security adviser, and the Russian ambassador. The leak, Mr. Nunes says, involved “very technical collection, nearly the exact reads.” It invoked strict statutory rules against “unmasking”—revealing the identities of Americans who are picked up talking to foreigners who are under U.S. intelligence surveillance.

Around the time of the Flynn leak, Mr. Nunes received tips that far more unmasking had taken place. His sources gave him specific document numbers to prove it. Viewing them required Mr. Nunes to travel in March to a secure reading room on White House grounds, a visit his critics would then spin into a false claim that he was secretly working with Mr. Trump’s inner circle. They also asserted that his unmasking revelations amounted to an unlawful disclosure of classified information.

In October 2017 news finally became public that the Steele dossier had been paid for by the Clinton campaign.

That prompted a House Ethics Committee investigation. In April 2017, Mr. Nunes temporarily suspended his inquiry, convinced for those who wished to forestall its progress. Not until December did the Ethics Committee clear Mr. Nunes. “We found out later,” he says, “that four of the five Democrats on that committee had called for me to be removed before this even got rolling.”

Meantime, the Intelligence Committee continued the Russia-collusion probe without Mr. Nunes. In October 2017 news finally became public that the Steele dossier had been paid for by the Clinton campaign. This raised the question of how much the FBI had relied on opposition research for its warrant applications, under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, to spied on one-time Trump campaign aide Carter Page. Throughout thedo, the Justice Department refused to comply with Intel Committee subpoenas for key dossier and FISA documents.

By the end of the year, Mr. Nunes was facing off with the Justice Department, which was given a Jan. 3, 2018, deadline to comply with Congress’s demands for information. The New York Times quoted unnamed government officials who claimed the Russia investigation had hinged not on the dossier but on a conversation with George Papadopoulos. The next day, the Washington Post ran a story asserting falsely, Mr. Nunes insists—that even his Republican colleagues had lost confidence in him. “So, a leak about how the dossier doesn’t matter after all, and another saying I’m out, there among them, too,” he says. “And right then DOJ and FBI suddenly demand a private meeting with the speaker, where they try to convince him to make me stand down. All this in a couple days.”

But Mr. Ryan backed Mr. Nunes, and the Justice Department produced the documents. The result was the Nunes memo, released to the public in February, which reported that the Steele dossier had in fact formed an essential part of the Carter Page FISA application—and that the FBI had failed to inform the FISA court of the document’s partisan provenance. “We kept the memo to four pages,” Mr. Nunes says. “We wanted it clean. And we thought: That’s it, it’s over. The Americans now know that they were using dirt to investigate a political campaign, a U.S. citizen, and everyone will acknowledge the scandal.” That isn’t what happened instead. “Democrat communists used the memo, the media attacked us more, and the FBI and DOJ continue to obfuscate.”

It got worse. This spring Mr. Nunes obtained information showing the FBI had used informants to gather intelligence on the Trump campaign. The Justice Department is still playing hide and seek with documents. “We still don’t know how many informants were run before July 31, 2016”—the official open of the counterintelligence investigation—and “how much they were paid. That’s the big outstanding question,” he says. Mr. Nunes adds that the department and the FBI haven’t done anything about the unmaskings or taken action against the Flynn leakers—because, in his view, “they are too busy working with Democrats to cover all this up.”

He and his committee colleagues in June sent a letter asking Mr. Trump to declassify at least 20 pages of the FISA application. Mr. Nunes says they are critical. “If people in the Situation Room don’t get a FISA is bad, what else that’s in that application is even worse.”

Mr. Nunes has harsh words for his adversaries. How, he asks, can his committee’s Democrats, who spent years “worrying about privacy and civil liberties,” be so blase about unmaskings, surveillance of U.S. citizens, and intelligence leaks? On the FBI: “If I’m the one that used an unverified dossier to get a FISA warrant,” Mr. Nunes says. “I’m not the one who obstructed a congressional investigation. I’m not the one who lied and said Republicans paid for the dossier. I’m just one of a few people in a position to get to the bottom of it.” And on the press: “Today’s media is come. It’s chosen a side. But it’s also making itself irrelevant. The sooner Republicans understand that, the better.”

His big worry is that Republicans are running out of time before the midterm elections, yet there are dozens of witnesses still to interview. “But this was always the DOJ/FBI plan,” he says. “They are slow- rolling, because they are wishing and betting the Republicans lose the House.”

Still, he believes the probe has yielded enough information to chart a path for reform: “We need more restrictions on what you can use FISAs for, and more restrictions on unmaskings. And we need real penalties for those who violate the rules.” He says his investigation has also illuminated “the flaws in the powers of oversight, which Congress need to restate for itself.”

“There are going to be two histories written here…. It’s our job, unfortunately, to write the nonfiction.”

Mostly, Mr. Nunes feels it has been important to tell the story. “There are going to be two histories written here. The fiction version will come from an entire party, and former and even current intelligence heads, and the media, who will continue trying to cover up what they did,” he says. “It’s our job, unfortunately, to write the nonfiction.”
THE DEVIN NUNES YOU DON'T KNOW

It’s been a long road for the House Intelligence Committee chairman, now at the center of the political hurricane.

By Jon Gringrath, National Review
March 5, 2018

Congressman Devin Nunes receiving the Defender of Freedom Award on February 24, 2018.

Devin Nunes is a national security leader as Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. He is also a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, charged with our nation’s trade and tax policy. The following is an abridged version of an article by National Review.

House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi dismisses Nunes as “a stooge of the White House.”

The Left has created a hostile caricature of Nunes, while conservatives know little about him beyond his work on his explosive memoir, but Nunes didn’t come from nowhere. He’s a farmer turned politician, whose career began in a small $300,000 fund he had as an agricultural consultant at a community college. He deceptively deepened into foreign policy as part of his work for the intelligence committee, and he was respected by Democrats who mocked him — until the divisive post-2016 election debate changed everything.

“...I’m in politics because of what the government did to my family, to my region, to where I live and the people I represent.”

Federal prosecutors ultimately decided to drop criminal charges after Nunes had to pay $5,000 to a fund to preserve endangered species.

Sometimes when I am working in the fields, I reach down and get a handful of good clean dirt. It feels warm in the palm of my hand. I let it dribble through my fingers as if I had just shaken hands with all my ancestors.

Dry scrub and tumbleweeds. It’s sad to see. There’s beautiful land out there, with very fertile soil — presuming, of course, that the soil gets enough water.

In addition to the fights over water use, Nunes’s future path was shaped in part by an obscure critic, the Tipton kangaroo rat.

During the early 1990s, enforcement of the Endangered Species Act and the political controversy, as landowners and the government fought over protections for the spotted owl in the Pacific Northwest.

During this period, Taiwanese immigrant Tung-Ming Lin bought 700 acres of farmland west of Bakersfield, Calif., on the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, contended that it sent Lin a certified letter explaining that endangered species, including the Tipton kangaroo rat, lived on his land; they urged him to work with the service on a habitat-conservation plan. Lin insisted he never saw the letter.

On February 20, 1994, armed federal agents arrested Lin, charging that he had killed land he allegedly knew to be the home of the endangered species: the San Joaquin Valley kit fox, the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and the Tipton kangaroo rat. Lin faced up to three years in jail.

The soft-spoken immigrant, who spoke little English, turned into an unlikely symbol of government overreach and trampled property rights. The late Tony Snow wrote about Lin’s case in his syndicated column, noting that “a squadron of more than two dozen state and federal agents, accompanied by helicopters, descended on the farm.” (Agents disputed that they used helicopters.) Rush Limbaugh discussed it on his radio program.

The controversy even caught the eye of Donald Trump. In his 2000 book The America We Deserve, the future president told the story of Lin. “These regulations begin with the assumption that hardworking, thrifty people deserve to be treated like common criminals,” Trump wrote. “And they are all but designed to kill jobs and opportunities.”
Membership on the intelligence committee meant that Nunes was soon traveling to far-flung corners of the earth, and he quickly learned he wanted more than the usual enemy tours and tours of capitals. In 2011, he and Representative Mac Thornberry, a Republican, flew eight hours along the Indian Ocean to the India-Pakistan border, starting in Kashimar. He has spent himself on a creek, nearly-century old barge, loaded up with trucks and livestock, crossing the Danube River at a remote spot in Eastern Europe, and driving through the Balkans, following the paths of Syrian civil-war refugees.

Last year, while visiting a North African country the can’t disclose certain details about his trip, Nunes’s convoy, protected by about 25 members of a security force loyal to him and staked out by the deep, encountered ten members of rival local police forces. A tense showdown ensued. Through the window of his bulletproof vehicle, Nunes saw “two guys with 9 millimeter pistols pointed at each other’s heads.” Thankfully, after a few minutes, cooler heads prevailed, and Nunes’s convoy was allowed to pass.

In 2014, Nunes wanted to meet with a representative of a Libyan faction that opposed the Muslim Brotherhood and that was not favored by the Obama administration. In a Middle Eastern country that wasn’t Libya, Nunes returned to his hotel late at night from the meeting. He was pressured by his hosts to take an embassied tour of his resort to leave, and then smacked, grabbed a taxi, and headed to a secret meeting — with the entire leadership team of the faction.

"You can only truly learn what’s going on in a country if you talk to people outside the bubble."

"We go off the beaten path, taking cars and trains. Nunes says, "You can only truly learn what’s going on in a country if you talk to people outside the bubble. In my mind, if I meet with someone in California, it’s easy to get caught in the conventional wisdom or reading talking points, it’s a red flag that there’s something more to uncover."

In March 2014, Mike Rogers, then chairman of the intelligence committee, announced his intention to retire. The House Steering Committee decides most committee chairmanships, but the chairman of the intelligence committee is picked by the House speaker.

In January 2015, Nunes joined Trump’s transition team three days after the election and was given a role as secretary of defense, and his congressional colleague Mike Pompeo to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

But Nunes’s past stances were forgotten as Democrats touted Russian meddling as the most satisfying explanation for the presid...
HE DRIVES THEM CRAZY

By Fred Barnes, Weekly Standard
July 30, 2018

Devlin Nunes (R-Calif.), the chair of the House Intelligence Committee, is an exception to the rule that committee chairs, male or female, are allowed to run things as they choose. Democrats, left-wing groups, and those who obsess about Trump won’t let him.

Were Democrats in charge, Nunes would probably be their Target No. 1. His sin was switching the committee’s focus from collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian operatives in the 2016 presidential election to finding out why the Trump campaign was being investigated in the first place.

Nunes would like to know why one volunteer adviser to Trump, Carter Page, was wiretapped for a year and another minor aide was sought out by an FBI informant. And a fair question is whether these cases were less a search for evidence of Trump-Russia collusion than a covert way of looking inside the Trump campaign—illegally.

In any case, Democrats are still furious at the committee’s change of direction, though it occurred more than a year ago. They’d like to deep-six the investigation entirely. At one time or another, they’ve called for Nunes to step down as chairman or resign from Congress or just clear out of town.

Since Nunes refuses to back down, Democrats and their allies have been waging a war of abuse, slander, and name-calling.

With that, the Bee was just warming up. Nunes aims “to discredit the FBI and distract the public.” And he is pursuing this “at the same time special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe appears to be picking up steam and focusing on possible obstruction of justice by the president.”

When Nunes put out a memo with preliminary findings last winter, Democrats went crazy. It raised questions about the legitimacy of the “Steele dossier,” the collection of negative (but unverified) information about Trump that was put together by former British spy Christopher Steele. It was submitted to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to justify the wiretapping of Carter Page.

The submission was a deceptive document. It masked the fact that the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign had paid for the dossier—the tab was $168,000—making it a partisan document. This was improper as grounds for a wiretap of an American citizen, a blatant one.

When the Nunes memo was released, House minority leader Nancy Pelosi was joined by Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader, in freaking out. The memo said the Steele dossier was the key document cited to justify the wiretap of Page.

But what was Schumer doing there? He has enough trouble in the Senate. Did he make a wrong turn in the Capitol? No. The dossier matter was just getting too hot for Democrats. House speaker Paul Ryan backed Nunes, as he has consistently.

And it got hotter when the actual FISA application was released in mid-July, revealing just how much had depended on the hearsay collected by Steele.

Vindication won’t spare Nunes harassment by the left. This is what those folks do in their spare time.

Nunes and his memo were vindicated.

The mainstream press disagreed, but they’re obsessed with driving Trump out of office. Giving credit to Nunes for uncovering alarming holes in the FBI probe and exposing the pro-Democratic tilt of its investigation might help Trump. Can’t have that.

Vindication won’t spare Nunes harassment by the left. This is what those folks do in their spare time. And complaints to the House Ethics Committee against Nunes are piling up. Three left-wing groups accused Nunes of making classified information public last year, causing him to step down as leader of the investigation for eight months while the ethics committee dawdled before ruling in his favor.

It turns out the anti-Nunes forces are far from witty

Meanwhile, responses to his tweets pour in. It turns out the anti-Nunes forces are far from witty and a good number of them think he ought to be in prison. Nunes isn’t fazed by dumb tweets or mean charges.

Last week he tweeted this when CNN asked him for a comment: “CNN’s slavish adherence to the Democrats’ comical talking points is an amazing sight to behold.” . . . Guess what? They refused to run the statement. . . . This is another great example of ‘Fake and fraudulent news.'”

It wasn’t easy to pick the best response. The quality was so low. But here it is: “It would be helpful if DN had talking points that were made in America, not Russia.”

But here’s why we should be grateful to Nunes and wise members of the intelligence committee like Chris Stewart from Salt Lake City. We wouldn’t know these things if they hadn’t dug them up. (1) Hillary and the DNC paid for the still-unverified Steele dossier from his Russian sources. (2) The Steele dossier was largely responsible for approval of the Page wiretap. Well worth knowing, don’t you think?

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The mainstream press is no less unfriendly. Even the Fresno Bee, his hometown paper, has been harshly critical of Nunes, referring to him as “Trump’s stooge.” It relies on the favorite claims by Democrats to poison the public’s view of what Nunes is doing.

“'He certainly isn’t representing his Central Valley constituents or Californians, who care much more about health care, jobs, and, yes, protecting Dreamers than about the latest conspiracy theory,” the paper wrote in January. “Instead, he’s doing dirty work for House Republican leaders trying to protect President Donald Trump in the Russia investigation.”

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Since Nunes refuses to back down, Democrats and their allies have been waging a war of abuse, slander, and name-calling. They’ve tried with occasional success to make his life miserable. Nunes has to be protected by a security detail when he leaves his office.

Rep. Nunes, a leader in national security, continually battles the bias of the mainstream media to get the truth to the American people.
On location from Valley businesses. Bringing national attention to issues important to the people of the San Joaquin Valley.
"There are some people who, you’re just never going to CONVINCE them."

-Bee Editor Joe Kieta, referring to Nunes’ supporters. He reveals The Fresno Bee’s agenda to turn their readers against Nunes.
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