

THE FRESNO BEES

The dirty little secrets of the Valley's propaganda machine



SEPTEMBER 2018

THE FRESNO BEES

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BEE SLANDERS NUNES

The Fresno Bee teams up with liberal groups to slander Nunes and attack his family and friends



Rep. Devin Nunes named Defender of Freedom 2018

The Fresno Bee and its parent company McClatchy have repeatedly insinuated wrongdoing by Devin Nunes' campaign based on false allegations by liberal activist groups that are funded by wealthy Hollywood and liberal elites. By repeating baseless attacks fed to them

by political groups without determining whether they're true, the Bee is acting as a political partisan, not an objective news provider.

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



Man who demanded info from school

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



Stephen Fogg, MD

Clovis Unified School District
Board Member

"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."

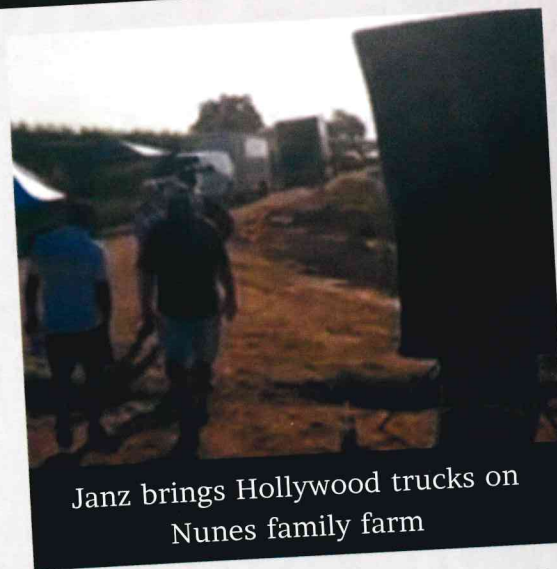
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JANZ TRESPASSES ON NUNES FAMILY FARM

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. Af-



Janz brings Hollywood trucks on Nunes family farm

terward, 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.



Brian Watte
Tulare County farmer

"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."

"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



Andrew Janz ✓
@JanzforCongress
US House candidate, CA-22

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...

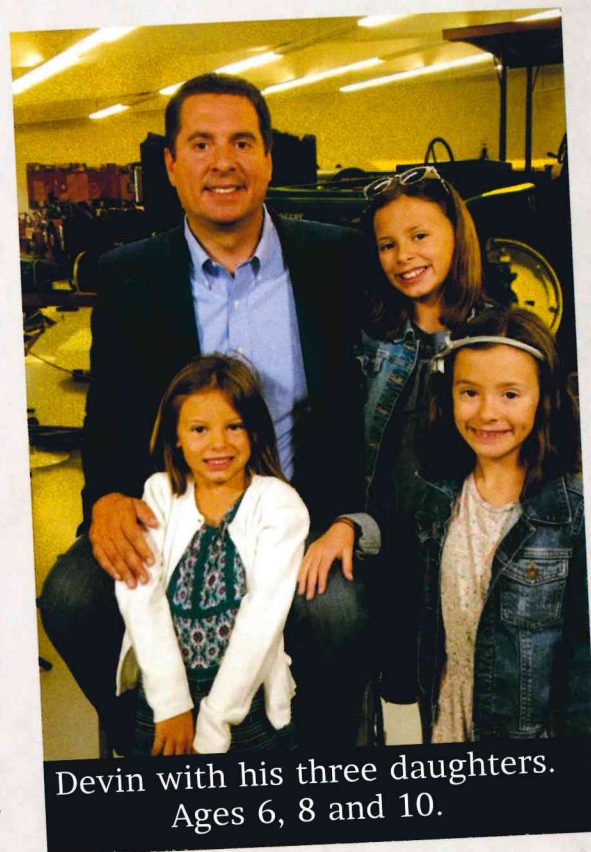
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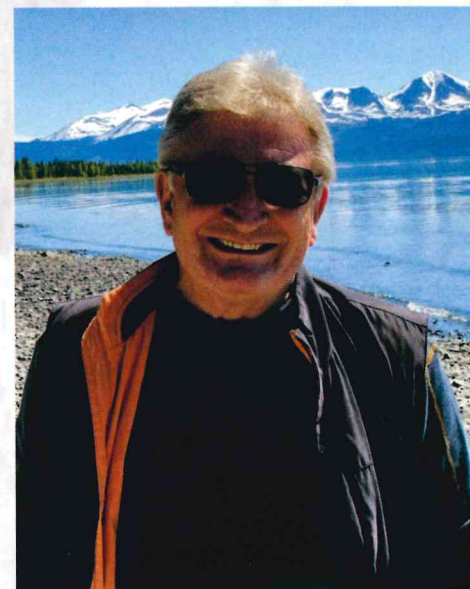
CREEPING BEE REPORTERS

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.



Devin with his three daughters.
Ages 6, 8 and 10.



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.



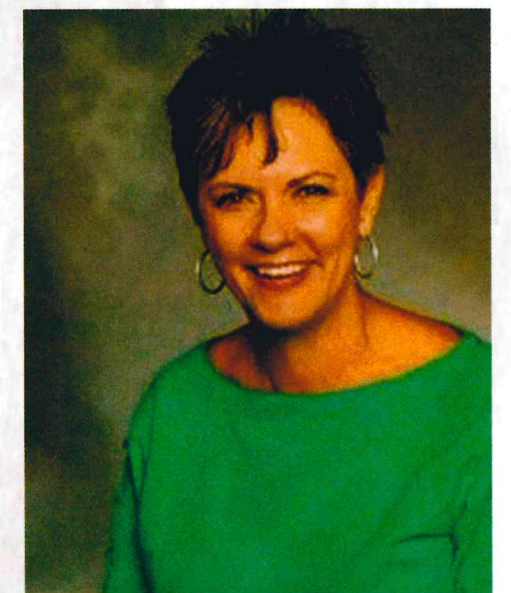
Devin and family with his Grandmother, age 98.

“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



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.

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.



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.



Skip Tyson
Manager
Sentinel Building, Clovis

"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."

facebook

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.



Andrew Janz

Apr 17 at 8:57pm • Instagram •

On Tuesdays, we protest Nunes #CA22



194

10 Comments 25 Shares

Like

Comment

Share

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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



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.



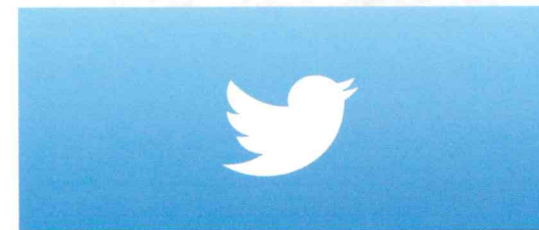
10:17 AM · 14 Aug 18



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.



8:51 AM · 14 Aug 18



Janz and Mackenzie Mays (Bee reporter who helped coordinate the campaign stunt) separately tweet about the event. Once again, the Clovis Police report proves that Janz' tweet about Nunes is a lie. The report states that Janz refused to leave the building, forcing the building's employee to call the police.



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

THE FRESNO BEE'S

The dirty little secrets of the Valley's propaganda machine "RESISTANCE" TARGETS VISALIA OFFICE

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



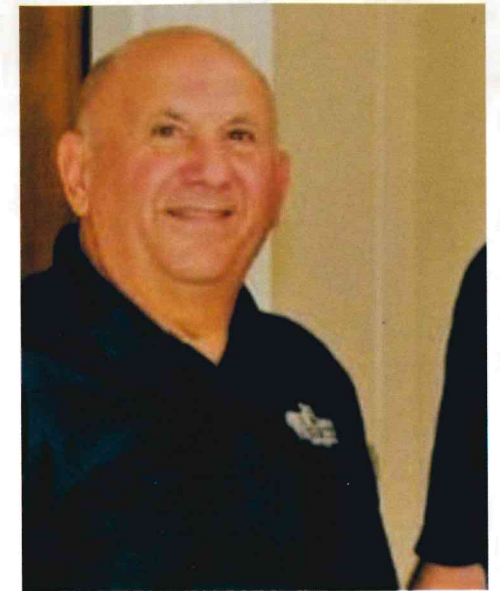
Activists occupy the hallway of Visalia office building

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.



Liberal campaign groups gather outside 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."



Mike Fistolera
Owner/Partner of
Visalia office building



Large group of activists take over the hallway of Devin's Visalia office. Businesses that share the hallway were blocked into their offices.

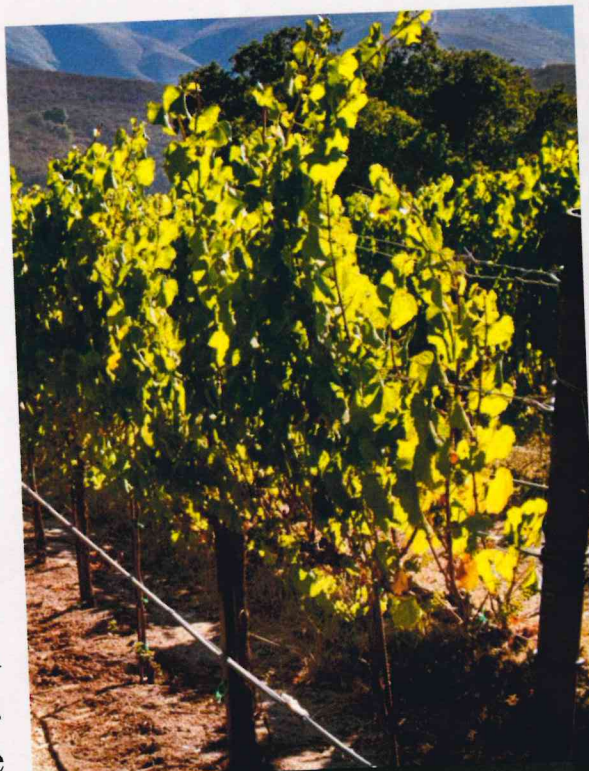
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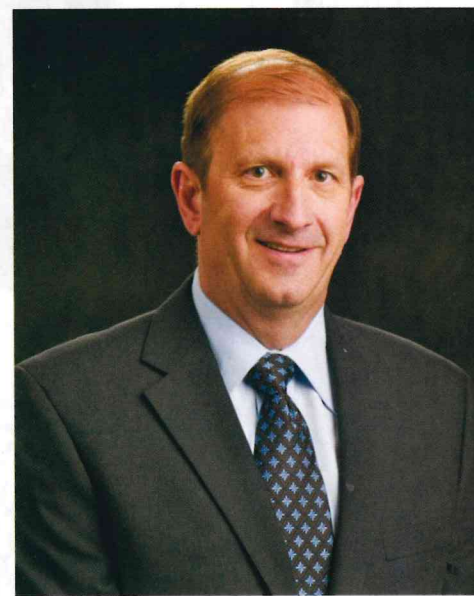
BEE REPORTERS SLANDER AG BUSINESS

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."



Small family-owned business becomes target of Fresno Bee



Craig Saladino
President of
Saladino's Foodservice

"The press needs to be aware of the huge problems they can cause for entrepreneurs with just one negative story. The kind of negative publicity that was directed at the winery is incredibly damaging to small businesses and their employees."

"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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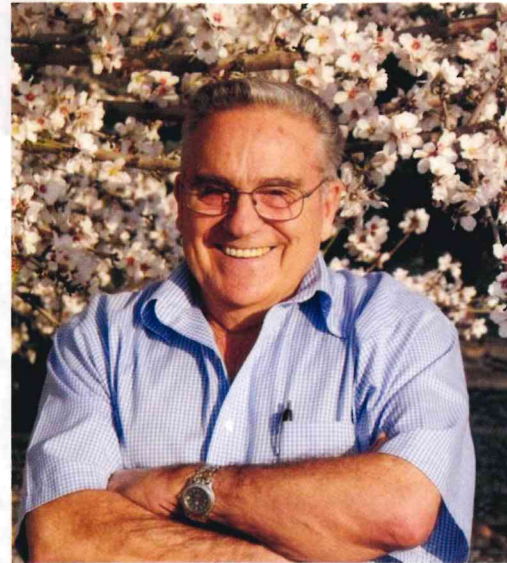
BEE CONTINUES ATTACK ON AGRICULTURE

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."



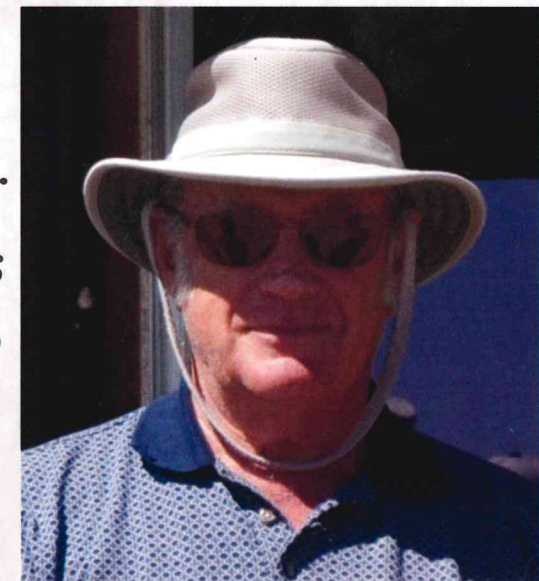
Fresno Bee attacks the agriculture industry that most valley residents depend on for their livelihoods.



Tony Campos
Valley farmer

“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.”

“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

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THE "RESISTANCE" FINDS A VOICE

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.

Fire Devin "am I next?" Nunes @realFireNunes
Bravo to @MackenzieMays and all of the @FresnoBee staff. It is absolutely TRUE that people in this area would only get national or local Sinclair-tainted reports if it weren't for the Bee 🐝 PLEASE consider supporting via low cost digital subscription. account.fresnobee.com/static/subscribe

Follow the trail—these twitter pages support Janz and have now started begging to keep The Bee alive



Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
When you're made of ~~bullshit~~, you really don't like people who call ~~bullshit~~. That's why @DevinNunes doesn't like the @FresnoBee. Piss him off by subscribing. I did. account.fresnobee.com/static/subscribe
11:42 PM · 23 Aug 18



Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
Thanks so much to @MackenzieMays for raising my profile so much. To think that just a couple months ago, I was just a pile of fruit waiting to ferment and be sold off like an underage prostitute.
10:50 AM · 15 Jun 18

Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
I hear you can make good money keistering cigarettes. It would certainly be more honorable than what he's doing now.
6:11

Fire Devin "am I next?" Nunes @realFireNunes
Support the @FresnoBee
VICE News @vicenews
Republican Rep. Devin Nunes isn't just a major Donald Trump defender — he's also...

Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
No Devin, that's not what "taint team" means, not at all. Eww.. no stop that!
Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
Devin won't come out of his room.
Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
Replied to @NatashaBertrand and @realFireNunes
Here's a helpful diagram to explain their relationship.
8:24 PM · 26 Aug 18

Fire Devin "am I next?" Nunes @realFireNunes
That stinkin' Devin!
Scabbers the Swamp Rat Nunes @ScabbersN...
This sign seen taken down for the second time in Reedley. It now has bigger stronger posts. He can't bend these over anymore.
You think stronger posts will stop me? #Scabbers will gnaw right through those.
8:24 PM · 26 Aug 18

Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
I hope I'm still alive when the phrase "porn star" first appears in my grandchildren's history books so I can explain to them it's all because of the Evangelicals.
10:08 AM · 24 Apr 18

Fire Devin "am I next?" Nunes @realFireNunes
Replied to @KottiPillar @BeauWilliamson and 4 others
Right on. Thanks for the support. Follow @JanzforCongress and also local Indivisible group @CvIndivisible for updates.
5:08 PM · 15 Apr 18

Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
Nobody knows @DevinNunes better than his mother. And that's why I say, for God's sake, vote for @JanzforCongress in November.
8:12 AM · 22 Mar 18

Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
Nobody knows @DevinNunes better than his mother. And that's why I say, for God's sake, vote for @JanzforCongress in November.
26 PM · 06 Jul 18

Devin Nunes' Mom @DevinNunesMom
This Fish Burrows Up A Sea Cucumber's Anus For Safety (And Food) popsci.com

A 55-gallon drum of lube.
'Cards Against Humanity' Co-Founder Mails Oregon Militia 55 Gallons of Lube reddit

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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's 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.

Brent Smittcamp	Matthew Swanson	Steven Moore	Jose Karim Nuñez	Glenn Schott
Bruce Koptar	Gary Bos	Ruth Wagner	Robert Davidson	M Frings
Joshua Setton	Joan Fischer	Paul Jamushian	Steve Spendlove	David Eddy
Don Groppetti	Byron Riegel	Bert Sagarria	Marcia Traeger	Robert Wilbur
Milton Pace	Kim Oviatt	Ronald Heskett	Ron Rodgers	Michael Schoenau
Steven Campos	Larry Ritchie	Bryn Forhan	Penny Foelischow	Joey Fernandez
Ralph Fagundes	Mike Perry	Don Baker	Stanley McKearnan	Ron Faulkner
Barbara Grimm Marshall	Shelly Groppetti	Ronda Brooks	Douglas Zimmerman	Mark Hoffman
Darcy Marshall	Jim Todd	Joe Brasil	Floyd Harlan	Ben Curt
William Smittcamp	Tony Souza	Gerry Hudson	George Rodgers	Doug Anderson Farms
David Twiford	Janis Donaghy	Maurice Etcheverry	Norma Sturdevant	Michael Crowell
Jeff Fortune	James Wallis	H Daulton	Perninder Bhatta	Laurel Vieira
Russell Harris	John Woolf	Robert Houkling	Sheilah Kreyenhagen	Pete Giotta
Bruce Wileman	Steven Spencer	Mani Nallasivan	Thomas Malloy	Robert Bushnell
Keith Jura	Daniel Souza	Mary Siri	Herbert Dompe	David Preston
Erin McIlhatten	Annela de Jong	Vivian Saper	Earl Perez	David Roberts
Johanne De Jong	Mark Turmon	John Vander Post	Daniel Borba	R7 Enterprises
Max Fleming	Cedric Reese	Eric Borba	Gabriel Pena	Anca Petracu
Tule River Tribal Council	Kristi Dairy	Mark Helm	John Clement	Scott Malley
Ken Wileman	Nancy Prigiano	Fred Starrh	Matt Pandol	Dick Dykstra
Loren Booth	Philip Hammond	Robin Martella	Donald Morelli	David Smith
Kenneth Puryear	Gregory Dix	Kellie Kroes	Mark Hellwig	Geraldine Leyendecker
Audie Burgan	Jacqueline Dyt	Thomas Barcellos	William Nielsen	Gary Correa
Allison Hughes	Thomas Dompie	Margaret Pires	Raymond Chun	Jess Visser
Jeremy Hughes	Andrew Pandol	Mendes Calf Ranch	Wayne Gowens	William Adams
Fred Ruiz	James Natta	Bill Dredlich	Jim Valor	Jack Moons
Richard Bakman	Marge Giacomelli	Craig Bergman	Douglas Britton	Deanna Jackson
William Wood	Duarte Vitorino	Doug Anderson	John Baker	Michael Carpenter
Richard Capla	Mike Drexler	Bobbi Moore	Steven McGee	Deane Souza
Megan Dutra	Mia Cohen	Richard Shehadey	Greg Hamstra	Joe Mattos
Richard Spencer	Harris Cohen	Richard Dyt	Jared Martin	Schotanus Farms
Frank Roque	Manuel Lawrence	Priston Dairy II	Rod Baker	Kay Errotabere
Riley Chaney	John Moon	Manuel Mancibo	Sharon Shamoon	Steve Carpenter
Peter Weber	Bret Bastore	Bob Mow	James Pardini	Matthew Stevens
Karen Wood	Alicia Huland Puryear	Kassiah Womack	Don Weld	Claire Smeed
Judith Perachi	Randal Irwin	Ann Pengien	Douglas Hampton	Douglas Stedley
Jeanine Grach	Richard Cochran	Shelley Oever	Stan Ward	Vicki Riddle
Edward Kasban	D. Gary West	Robert Hillenides	Carol Capriotti	Marion Sariman
Gary Hughes	Stanley Bennett	Hamstra Dairy	Basel Perch	Raymond Hemmingsen
David Wood	Jon Bassett	Konaki Koester	Anthony Schotamus	Robert Fena
John Kalsakoff	Stuart & Anne Weil	Gerrit Boma	Tony Humes	Henry Rocha
Matthew Defendis	Wallace Housh	James Nickel	Ken Curt	Don Michael Steele
Donald Perachi	Edna Cornforth	Robert Hawk	Steven Landwehr	Frank Leyendecker
Thomas Ferdinand	Harvey Hall	Sayre Miller	Walter Dweile	Darryl Castro
Jeffery Roberts	Jack Baird	William Allen	Steve Volje	John Blake
Curtis Jorritsma	Douglas Beckley	Steven Boos	Lee Egorggie	Kirk Deak
Robert Winchester	Grant Crahan	Jerry Hallford	Edward Maurer	Ernst Schroeder
Mike Jensen	Michael Stearns	Paul Fildard	Daniel J. Irwin	Jean Laborde
Ryan Ferguson	Richard Whitman	John Mathian	David Swanson	Philip Sorbet
Jean Segonzpe	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Flora Bhalka
Larry Lowder	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Darryl Estep
Fred Fagundes	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Steven Lloyd
Lloyd Fagundes	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Jerry Anthony
John Duarte	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Nancy Haddad
Arlene Hettling	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Charles Tolpelt
Don Gerawan	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Gary Karde
John Harris	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Dana Willy
Carole Harris	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Arlane St. Clair
Charle Prigiano	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Fred Willy
Thelma Borges	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Mark and Susan Kelly
Dolly Faria	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Shirley J. Bonny
Samuel Quinn	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Margaret Caravack
Scott Walle	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Ernst Kring
Henry Anderson	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Deloris Hovder
Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Stanley Hovder
Joanne Wirth	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Robert Hovder
Richard Swanson	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Scott Hillman	Penelope Hovder

Partial list of Devin's several thousand donors from the Valley

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

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



Barbra Streisand

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



Senator Elizabeth Warren

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



Senator Barbara Boxer

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

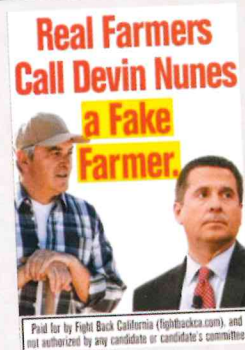
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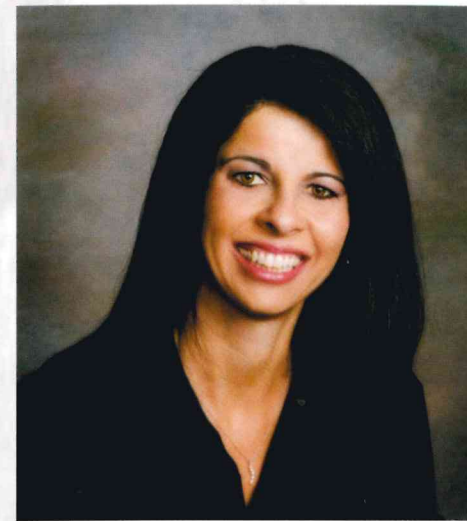
OUTSIDE GROUP ATTACKS DEVIN'S FARMING BACKGROUND

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.



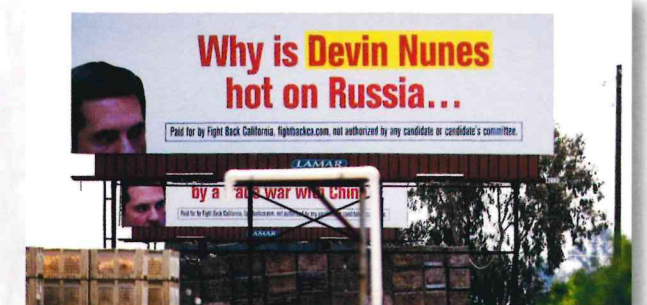
Nevertheless, the Fresno Bee hyped and promoted the stunt, publishing a stand-alone story on it, publishing another article in which a person discussed how he helped file the lawsuit, posting a video interview with that person, and publishing a short write-up when the lawsuit was dismissed. The Bee decided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



Lori Cardoza
Tulare County farmer
College of Sequoias Board Member

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.

**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 IS UNDER ATTACK BY LEFT-WING GROUPS AND THE MEDIA BECAUSE HE FIGHTS FOR THE VALLEY AND AMERICA



-Taking on environmental extremists in the fight for Valley water

-Standing up to corrupt Sacramento politicians who raised the gas and car fee taxes

-Fighting corrupt Washington officials who misused our intelligence agencies to spy on their political opponents

The following articles from the Wall Street Journal, National Review and Weekly Standard show the truth behind his work in Congress.

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*



Rep. Nunes is a national security leader. As Chairman of the Intelligence Committee, he is charged with keeping our country safe.

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 two weeks before President 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 believed—including the Russians—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: 'Comey, FBI, they'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 looking at people 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 a January 2017 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 Hillary Clinton 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, a conservative website funded by hedge-fund manager Paul Singer, had earlier hired Fusion GPS to do research on Mr. Trump, but the Beacon's editors have said that as-

signment 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 prevent one. He had been troubled in January 2017 when newspapers published leaked conversations 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 readouts." It violated 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 stepped aside temporarily from the Russia-collusion piece of his inquiry, conveniently 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 spy on onetime Trump campaign aide Carter Page. Throughout the fall, the Justice Department refused to comply with Intel Committee subpoenas for key dossier and FISA documents.



Nunes regularly hosts valley wide townhalls on local radio station,

another low-level Trump aide, 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 alone," 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 is not a coincidence."

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 American public now knows 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, "Democrats put out their own 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 camp. 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

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

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 think using the Clinton dirt to 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 blasé about unmaskings, surveillance of U.S. citizens, and intelligence leaks? On the FBI: "I'm not 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 corrupt. 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 reinstate 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.



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

By Jim Geraghty, National Review
March 5, 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 memo. But Nunes didn't come from nowhere. He's a farmer turned politician whose career began with a near-accidental run for the board of trustees at a community college. He dived deeply into foreign policy as part of his work for the intelligence committee, and he was respected by Democrats with whom he worked — until the divisive post-2016 election debate changed everything.

Immigrants in the Fields

The backstory of Devin Nunes begins not really in Washington or California but in the Azores, a tiny group of islands more than 800 miles off the coast of Portugal. These distant, isolated volcanic islands, settled in the 1400s, offered a harsh and difficult life. Inhabitants faced starvation, harsh weather, and earthquakes. Ships crossing the Atlantic stopped regularly in the Azores, and the locals often felt tempted by the thought of new life on a distant shore; some joined the gold rush to California in 1849.

Nunes's grandparents came from the Azores and, like many other Portuguese, settled in California's San Joaquin Valley, which holds some of the best land for farming in the country, or perhaps on earth. Previous generations of Portuguese Azorean immigrants and their children had turned to farming after the shepherd-

ing industry declined in the 1870s. This is the region that John Steinbeck wrote about so frequently, a fertile, sunny Eden that offered many opportunities for work — and at least a slim chance at a fortune and the American dream. As Nunes described it in his 2010 book *Restoring the Republic*, the valley was "a place where someone with few belongings, little education, and even no ability to speak English could prosper by picking grapes, milking cows, or hoeing cotton fields." Nunes's family ultimately worked and saved enough money to buy a 640-acre farm outside Tulare.

"We're in the agricultural center of the planet," Nunes boasts. "Over 300 crops grow here, year-round for the most part." The congressman grew up surrounded by extended family, all working on the farm and finding work on other farms nearby. Family and the land were closely intertwined in this immigrant subculture. Tony Jerome, a Portuguese Azorean immigrant who moved to Turlock, Calif., in 1912, wrote:

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 and I feel as if I had just shaken hands with all my ancestors.

"It's little bit of a dying breed now, not a lot of people my age or younger grew up like that," Nunes tells me. He describes the family milieu:

You get together for every single birthday, Sunday afternoons are family dinners or lunches, and it's not just your immediate family, it's all your aunts and uncles and cousins and great-aunts and uncles and all of that. . . . Until I was a freshman in high school, I grew up with a dozen cousins who were all [aged] within three or four years of me.

Nunes and his wife together have five cousins serving in the military.

When the extended Nunes family wasn't farming, its members were serving in the armed forces. Since his election to Congress in 2002, Nunes has always had cousins and relatives serving in uniform and often in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the moment, Nunes and his wife together have five cousins serving in the military; among them, one is an officer, one just returned from Afghanistan, and one is about to



Rep. Nunes has brought national attention to the Valley's water crisis.

deploy to Afghanistan. The congressman says his many relatives in the military are one of the factors that made him want to join the intelligence committee.

In the early 1990s, the congressman's father, Anthony Nunes, urged his son to not merely go out and find work but to start his own business. The teenage Devin Nunes and his younger brother, also named Anthony, started their own business, leasing a swather — a farm instrument that cuts hay or small grain crops such as alfalfa or wheat and forms them into a windrow.

"I went around to neighbors, and my brother and I would do this custom work," Nunes recalls. He figured his whole life would be in agriculture. "I never pictured myself running for office. I always wanted to be a winemaker and make cheese, that sort of thing."

At this time, agricultural life in California's Central Valley was changing dramatically. Besides the rain, water for the valley's farms largely came from California's Central Valley Project, a complex network of dams, reservoirs, canals, hydroelectric power plants, and other facilities, built over five decades. In 1992, Congress passed the Central Valley Improvement Act, sponsored by George Miller, then a Democratic representative from California's eleventh district, and Bill Bradley, a Democratic senator from New Jersey. The new law diverted at least 800,000 acre-feet of water from agricultural use to preserving wetlands. The Audubon Society called it "an ambitious effort to move federal water policy in a more balanced and sustainable direction." Farmers saw it as diverting water — water they had enjoyed access to for decades — out farther west, so far that it ended up in the Pacific Ocean.

Among those farmers convinced that the federal government was taking usable fresh water and diverting it out to the sea in the name of environmentalism was young Devin Nunes. In his teen years and later when he owned his own farm, he found federal policies hitting home.

"The only land that I could afford [to buy] was the land with the worst water," Nunes says. "It's been 15 years since I sold my land, and a lot of that land out there where I farmed just isn't being farmed anymore. It's basically turned back to desert — not sand, but

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 critter, the Tipton kangaroo rat.

During the early 1990s, enforcement of the Endangered Species Act grew increasingly controversial, as landowners and the government fought over protections for the spotted owl in the Pacific Northwest. During this period, Taiwanese immigrant Taung-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 tilled land he allegedly knew to be the home of three 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 and \$300,000 in fines.

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 opportunity."

"...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 Lin agreed to pay \$5,000 to a fund to preserve endangered species.

"When all this is happening, I'm trying to make payments by the month," Nunes says. "We were the guinea pig. And that's what drove me into politics. 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."

Back in the early Nineties, Cathy Abernathy was chief of staff to Representative Bill Thomas, who would go on to become chairman of the powerful tax-writing Ways and Means Committee. She remembers Nunes as an enthusiastic teenager showing up at town halls, asking detailed questions about federal water policies.

"It was a shock to see a young person so astute on federal policies!" she says.

After high school, Nunes attended the College of the Sequoias, a two-year community college in Visalia, and then he spent three years completing a bachelor's and master's degree at California Polytechnic State University, at San Luis Obispo. About a month after getting his master's degree, Nunes's grandfather passed away, and he started working with his uncle managing his grandmother's dairy farm — as well as working on his own farmland.

In 1996, Nunes's community college announced a controversial decision to sell the farmland used for the school's vocational training. Farmers had donated the land, and the college planned to use the profits from the land sale to build new buildings: "building more

bureaucracy on campus,” as Nunes saw it.

One of his former community-college professors heard that Nunes had worked at political campaign fundraisers during his time at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and he reached out, urging Nunes to help two students who planned to run against the sitting president on the college’s board of trustees. But Nunes’s experience had been vastly overstated by the rumor mill. “I didn’t know a damn thing about running a campaign, I had parked cars and poured wine,” Nunes recalls with a laugh.

‘Why Don’t You Run?’

Nunes agreed to help, but fate had a consequential twist ahead of him: “Literally the day of the deadline, the two guys who had been talking about running both backed out and said, ‘Why don’t you run?’”

Nunes drove out to the farm of Ron Quinn. The father of a college friend and housemate, Quinn grew to become a mentor to Nunes and, as Nunes puts it, “kind of like my godfather.”

“He said, ‘Oh yeah, you’re going to win, and I’m going to help you.’ I thought he was going to tell me, ‘No, don’t run!’” Nunes says. “It’s the little things that happen in life. If he had said ‘You’re out of your mind,’ I would have never done it.”

“He was nervous because he was young,” Quinn says. (At 22 going on 23, Nunes was younger than the average student at the College of the Sequoias.)

I said, “Your personality, and your stature, you’re going to win. . . . We need younger generations, your generation, to start getting involved with what’s going on in our community. We’re an ag-based community. You grew up in agriculture. You know what kind of problems we’re having. You’re really schooled in this, you’ll be really good at this.”

Quinn remembered a prophetic observation: “I said, ‘You never know what can happen after that.’”

“He defeated a guy who was in his sixties, a well-established real savvy guy,” says John Zumwalt, vice president of the College of the Sequoias, who served as college-board president when Nunes was on the board. “He was a 22-year-old kid, and we were in our fifties and sixties, so we were . . .” He paused to chuckle. “Real skeptical of him



Devin discusses last year’s historic tax cuts with local business owners, the Amendola family. Nunes was a key architect of the legislation that created record jobs and economic growth.

when he first came on. It didn’t take long for us to realize that this was a kid with potential. He ended up being a leader.”

Once on the college board, Nunes played a key role in moving the agricultural vocational program from Visalia, where the property had been increasingly surrounded by housing, to a new, expansive college farm in Tulare.

“He and another board member had the vision to see that if you put a farm down there and made it big enough, that someday it might be a college,” Zumwalt says, meaning a new branch campus about 16 miles away. “Sure enough. He was driven to make sure the ag program was sound. It had been a hodgepodge when he first came in. Now it’s a first-class program.”

The college’s Tulare center now consists of a 500-acre site that includes 220 acres of farmland.

As a young, up-and-coming Republican in one of the few remaining heavily GOP parts of the state, Nunes got to know, and built useful relationships with, lots of local Republicans. None would prove to be more consequential than former congressman Bill Thomas, the Republican who chaired the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee from 2001 to 2006 and represented a large portion of

the valley. Another key player was Thomas’s staffer Kevin McCarthy, who went on to run for Congress himself and is today the House majority leader.

Nunes’s campaign strategist for that 2002 race was Mark Abernathy. Cathy Abernathy, his wife, recalls:

[Mark] advised Devin that water didn’t poll highly with the average voter, so it was important to explain it. Devin insisted upon making it *the* issue in his campaign. He stuck to the issues of water and agriculture, and slowly climbed ahead over four months.

Nunes won the three-way primary with 37 percent, and the general election that November with 70 percent. Since then, Nunes has never won less than 62 percent of the vote; he ran unopposed in 2010.

Welcome to D.C.

“Devin’s been working on fiscal issues with me since he got to Congress,” says [Speaker of the House Paul] Ryan. “He was an early supporter of the Road Map,” Ryan’s far-reaching budget proposal. “And he played a big role in advancing tax reform for years, long before we actually achieved it.”

For most of his early terms in Congress, Nunes had little profile outside of his district and his colleagues — which was how his constituents liked it, seeing him as a tenacious fighter in their crusade for more water.

“He can be a bulldog. He’s not backing down, the way some people have. In California, it’s easy to get worn down by the [Democratic] majority and their constant criticism.”

“He’s a person who can really focus,” says Connie Conway, the former Republican minority leader of the California Assembly from Tulare. “He can be a bulldog. He’s not backing down, the way some people have. In California, it’s easy to get worn down by the [Democratic] majority and their constant criticism.”

In 2011, the San Joaquin Valley faced increasingly serious drought conditions. Year after year, Nunes kept pushing Congress and, in particular, his state’s Democratic senators to provide relief to the region. He wanted to see more water flowing through the Central Valley Project canals to the valley farmers, and less steered west to the oceans. The House kept passing legislation, but it often died in the Senate, and the Obama administration signaled its opposition.

Nunes’s persistence finally bore fruit in late 2016, when Congress passed and President Obama signed legislation that included \$335 million for water-storage projects; the law also eased limits on moving water south of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta to help San Joaquin Valley farmers. The bill’s language was hashed out by Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative McCarthy; it was one of the rare splits between Feinstein and fellow California Democratic senator Barbara Boxer, who called the bill “ugly,” “wrong,” and “horrible.”

John Boehner became House Majority Leader in 2005 and started arranging for GOP members to take trips to places such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Nunes joined Boehner on those trips, which usually would occur twice a year. Nunes had declared his 2002 bid shortly after 9/11, and members of the extended Nunes clan, wearing the country’s uniform, kept heading off to war.

When Boehner became Speaker after the 2010 GOP wave, he put Nunes on the intelligence committee; by all accounts, he fit in fine. Representative Adam Schiff, the California Democrat who is now the ranking member on the intelligence committee and who has become one of Nunes’s toughest critics, once had high praise for him, telling the *Fresno Bee* in April 2014, “I have always been impressed by him. He works in a very bipartisan way.”

Membership on the intelligence committee meant that Nunes was soon traveling to far-flung corners of the earth, and he quickly made clear he wanted more than the usual embassy meetings and tours of capital cities. In 2011, he and Representative Mac Thornberry of Texas drove eight hours along the Indian side of the India–Pakistan border, starting in Kashmir. He has found himself on a creaky, 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 (he can’t disclose certain details about his trips), Nunes’s convoy, protected by about 25 members of a security force loyal to the head of state, 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 millimeters [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 his scheduled meetings, waited for his security and embassy escort to leave, and then snuck out, 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 and they’re just repeating 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 alone.

Boehner selected his longtime ally, and Nunes, at 41, became the youngest committee chairman in Congress. His first day on the job as chairman was the day of the *Charlie Hebdo* terrorist attack in Paris, and he quickly earned goodwill from the panel’s Democrats. Representative C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger of Maryland, the committee’s former top Democrat, called Nunes a “good man” in the *Fresno Bee* back in 2015. “He’s smart, he’s hard-working, and he’s taking his job very seriously.” By December of that year, Nunes and ranking member Schiff had worked out a previously thorny disagreement on the Intelligence Authorization Act.

Nunes is an unlikely candidate to be, in Pelosi’s term, a “Trump stooge.” He didn’t endorse any of the Republican candidates for president in the 2016 primary, and he never had a conversation with Trump until the summer of 2016. Nor does Nunes share in Trump’s skepticism that Russia would attempt to hack sensitive information at the DNC or try to influence the election. A month before the election, Nunes told reporters it was “no surprise” that Russia would target U.S. political organizations.

Nor is there much evidence that Nunes is a fan of Russia, or outside of the Republican foreign-policy mainstream. He support-



Rep. Nunes speaking with constituents at the World Ag Expo.

ed trade-promotion authority and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, doesn’t believe the country can sufficiently screen Syrian refugees, and opposed the Iran nuclear deal.

In 2014, he denounced the “shameless propaganda” of RT, the Kremlin’s flagship international media outlet. And, in an op-ed in the *Washington Times*, he warned: “While [Vladimir Putin] may be willing to sacrifice Russia’s own economy for his geo-political ambitions, we cannot afford to be a mere bystander as his destabilizing actions begin to threaten the economies of the Baltics and other NATO allies, possibly including our own.”

In 2015, he joined a bipartisan group of lawmakers urging the Obama administration to authorize the transfer of “lethal, defensive weapons systems to the Ukrainian military.” In an appearance on CNN in April 2016, he criticized the Obama administration for being too soft with Putin:

After the Georgian invasion, maybe we thought some diplomacy might work. Clearly, after the invasion of Crimea, that should have been a red line, and we immediately should have moved quickly in to bolster our NATO allies. But instead we continued to negotiate with the Russians, we continued to talk to the Russians, and then they invaded Eastern Ukraine. We missed that. Then we completely missed entirely when they put a new base with aircraft into Syria. We missed it, we were blind. . . . We misjudged Putin for many, many years.

Nunes joined Trump’s transition team three days after the election and recommended James Mattis to be 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 president’s surprise victory and as President Trump publicly fumed about the FBI’s investigation of his campaign. Nunes’s relatively good relationship with the president, and his belief that the FBI and Department of Justice had abused their powers in the run-up to the 2016 election, spurred an avalanche of criticism — some fair, and much downright unhinged.

In November, Andrew Janz, a Democratic congressional candidate, unveiled a billboard that depicts Trump and Nunes on Putin’s leash. In January, MSNBC contributor John Heilemann asked Connecticut Democratic Senator Chris Murphy on air, “Is it possible that we actually have a Russian agent running the House Intel Committee on the Republican side?”

Nunes is no Russian agent, but that doesn’t mean he isn’t willing to lock horns with top officials in the intelligence community and federal law enforcement.

This is an abridged version of an article from National Review.

To read the entire article, go to the National Review website:

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HE DRIVES THEM CRAZY

By Fred Barnes, *Weekly Standard*
July 30, 2018

Devin 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.

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.



[The Fresno Bee] relies on the favorite claims by Democrats to poison the public's view of what Nunes is doing.

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."

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."

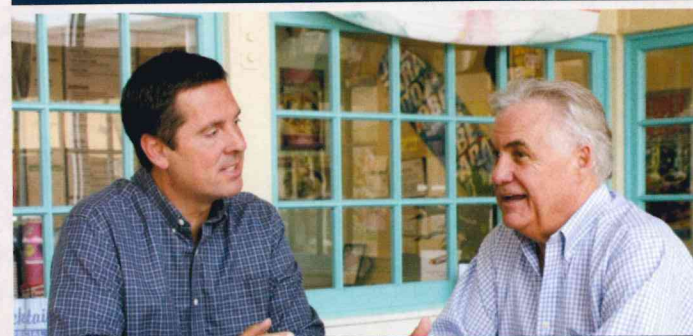
But here's why we should be grateful to Nunes and wise members of the intelligence committee like Chris Stewart from Salt Lake City. We wouldn't know these things if they hadn't dug them up. (1) Hillary and the DNC paid for the still-unverified Steele dossier from his Russian sources. (2) The Steele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



Rep. Nunes, a leader in national security, continually battles the bias of the mainstream media to get the truth to the American people.



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*“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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The dirty little secrets of the Valley's propaganda machine

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