

DEMOCRATS DEMAND DOJ RELEASE THE INFORMATION THAT HAS CHRISTOPHER STEELE HIDING FOR HIS LIFE

I have to say, the Democrats are beginning to convince me Russia's involvement in the DNC hack is just one hoax.

Don't get me wrong. I believe there is plenty of evidence – in public and stuff I've been told by people close to the hack – that the Russians did hack the DNC and John Podesta and share those documents with Wikileaks.

But given the bozo way the Democrats are trying to politicize it, I can only conclude the Democrats think this is less serious than I have believed and than Democrats claim. That's because they're now demanding that FBI give them the very same information that – we've been told by public reporting – led former MI6 officer Christopher Steele to hide for his life.

This morning, David Corn wrote a piece complaining about “the mysterious disappearance of the biggest scandal in Washington.”

After reviewing some of the facts in this case (and asserting without proof that Putin's interference in the election “achieved its objectives,” which is only partly backed by declassified intelligence reports on the hack) and giving an incomplete list of the congressional committees that have announced investigations into the hack, Corn gave this inventory of what he claims to be the lack of outcry over the hack.

Yet these behind-closed-doors inquiries have generated minimum media notice, and, overall, there has not been much outcry.

Certainly, every once in a while, a Democratic legislator or one of the few Republican officials who have bothered to express any disgust at the Moscow meddling (namely Sens. John McCain, Lindsey Graham, and Marco Rubio) will pipe up. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi days ago called on the FBI to investigate Trump's "financial, personal and political connections to Russia" to determine "the relationship between Putin, whom he admires, and Donald Trump." Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), responding to Trump's comparison of the United States to Putin's repressive regime, said on CNN, "What is this strange relationship between Putin and Trump? And is there something that the Russians have on him that is causing him to say these really bizarre things on an almost daily basis?" A few weeks ago, Graham told me he wanted an investigation of how the FBI has handled intelligence it supposedly has gathered on ties between Trump insiders and Russia. And last month, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) pushed FBI Director James Comey at a public hearing to release this information. Yet there has been no drumbeat of sound bites, tweets, or headlines. In recent days, the story has gone mostly dark.

The funniest detail in this is how Corn describes Chris Murphy's response to the exchange that took up the entire weekend of news – Trump's nonplussed response when Bill O'Reilly called Putin a killer.

O'Reilly: Do you respect Putin?

Trump: I do respect him but –

O'Reilly: Do you? Why?

Trump: Well, I respect a lot of people but that doesn't mean I'm going to get

along with him. He's a leader of his country. I say it's better to get along with Russia than not. And if Russia helps us in the fight against ISIS, which is a major fight, and Islamic terrorism all over the world – that's a good thing. Will I get along with him? I have no idea.

O'Reilly: But he's a killer though. Putin's a killer.

Trump: There are a lot of killers. We've got a lot of killers. What do you think – our country's so innocent. You think our country's so innocent?

O'Reilly: I don't know of any government leaders that are killers.

Trump: Well – take a look at what we've done too. We made a lot of mistakes. I've been against the war in Iraq from the beginning.

O'Reilly: But mistakes are different than –

Trump: A lot of mistakes, but a lot of people were killed. A lot of killers around, believe me.

This was a Super Bowl interview, for fuck's sake, and both before and after the interview, political pundits on both sides of the aisle were up in arms about Trump's affinity for Putin's murderous ways! Google counts more than 70,000 articles on the exchange.

But to Corn, that translated into only one comment from Murphy.

From there, Corn goes onto complain that the White House press briefings – which have been a noted shitshow inhabited by people like Infowars – has only featured direct questions about the investigation twice, and that the questions about Trump's call to Putin weren't about the investigation (as opposed to, say, Trump's

ignorant comments about the START treaty, which could get us all killed).

The crazier thing is that, best as I can tell, Mother Jones – the media outlet that David Corn has a bit of influence over – seems to have ignored the indictment of Hal Martin yesterday, the arrest on treason charges of two FSB officers, allegedly for sharing information with the US intelligence community, or even today's Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on our relations with Russia. Among other things, today's hearing discussed the hack, Trump's comments about Putin the killer, weaponization of information, sanctions, Trump's lukewarm support for NATO. It also included multiple Democratic calls for a bipartisan investigation and assurances from Chairman Corker and Ranking Member Cardin that that would happen.

So effectively, David Corn should be complaining about his own outlet, which isn't covering the things relating to the hack others of us are covering.

No matter. Corn made his sort of ridiculous call, that call got liked or RTed over 3,000 times, and as if magically in response, Jerry Nadler introduced a resolution of inquiry, calling on the Administration to (in part) release any document that relates or refers to "any criminal or counterintelligence investigation targeting President Donald J. Trump, National Security Advisor Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort, Carter Page, Roger Stone, or any employee of the Executive Office of the President."

As I've already noted, two FSB officers recently got arrested on treason charges, an event many people fear came in response to details revealed about this investigation and if so would badly undermine any investigation. People equally wonder whether the curious death of former FSB General Oleg Erovinkin relates to the leaked Steele dossier that Corn himself played a central role in magnifying, which would represent another lost intelligence source. And,

of course, there are the reports that the former MI6 officer that compiled the dossier, Christopher Steele, on which these allegations rest fled from his home out of fear for his life because of the way it got publicized.

Either Putin is a ruthless thug or he's not. Either Steele had reason to flee because the dossier is true or he didn't. Either this thuggery is serious or it's just a political stunt.

I really do believe it is the former (though I have real questions about the provenance of the dossier, questions which Corn could but has not helped to provide clarity on). Which is why I'm absolutely mystified that Democrats are demanding every document pertaining to any counterintelligence investigation into it, the kind of exposure which – recent history may already show – is totally counterproductive to actually pursuing that investigation.

As I'll write shortly, I do deeply suspect the Senate Intelligence Committee investigation (especially) is designed to be counterproductive. The Hal Martin indictment yesterday seems to suggest FBI doesn't have the evidence to figure out who Shadow Brokers is, if even it has ties to the DNC hack (as much evidence suggests it does). But I also think political stunts like this don't help things.

But maybe that's not the point?