

THREAD: HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING WITH JOHN DEAN

Here's a post dedicated to the House Judiciary Committee's hearing today at 2:00 p.m. EDT. I will add content as we go along.

Former White House counsel John Dean will testify today. You'll recall he served under Richard M. Nixon's administration. The right-wing media sphere has already been making noise about the HJC taking testimony from a convicted felon.

Except he's **their** convict, a Republican who pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice for his role in covering up Nixon's Watergate scandal. I'm sure he'll have plenty to say about criminality in the White House and subsequent cover-ups.

More here later – bring related chatter here.

UPDATE – 2:30 p.m. –

Via CNN: Justice Department strikes deal with House Democrats over Mueller report evidence, Nadler says

Yeesh. This is like Watergate all over again. Back then Nixon had agreed to accommodate the HJC with access to some of the Oval Office tapes, but the person who would screen them was Senator Stennis who had a hearing disability. We won't know if Barr truly fulfills the spirit of this agreement with Nadler or pulls a Nixonian Stennis compromise. The HJC took Nixon to court.

Minority Ranking Member Doug Collins (R-GA) attacked Dean as expected and attacked the hearing saying the committee's priorities are upside down. If the country had been attacked as Nadler said then committee should be focused on that.

Which we all know is bullshit since the House has already passed legislation – the very first bill of the 116th Congress, H.R. 1 For The People Act 2019 – intended to secure elections from attack by foreign influence which paid legislators to skew districts via gerrymandering, manipulated races by way of dark money donations to legislators, and hid additional financial influence through undisclosed financial statements including tax returns. That bill is sitting on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's desk, buried under ~150 other bills he's bottlenecked. If Collins has a problem with priorities he should have a chat with McConnell and ask why McConnell is uninterested in protecting this country's elections.

UPDATE – 2:35 p.m. –

Following John Dean's opening statement, former U.S. Attorney Joyce White Vance is up. Nice to see a familiar face which will be helpful in news coverage. She's definitely read the Special Counsel report, and she's able to explain what she's seen in it as a former prosecutor which would spur her to indict.

UPDATE – 2:40 p.m. –

Heritage Foundation's John G. Malcolm, vice president of the Institute for Constitutional Government. "Less enthusiastic" about Mueller because he didn't make a "traditional prosecutorial judgment" for Barr, blah-blah. Followed by apologia for Trump who must surely be innocent because he was so cooperative providing "over a million pages of documents, allowed key members of his staff to be interviewed, and submitted written answers to questions." Sure, sure, right.

You know this is what Collins will tee off, the beat down on Mueller's job performance while disregarding SCO report Volume II, pages 1-2 in which Mueller explains why he can't make a "traditional prosecutorial judgment."

UPDATE – 2:45 p.m. –

Another familiar face, former U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade, has also read the SCO report. She's explaining the obstruction of justice charges she read in the report.

I'm sure the GOP will come out swinging but it's really tough to get around this wham-wham-wham beat down ticking off the obstruction.

I'll add the panelists' statements here after the hearing. ~Rayne