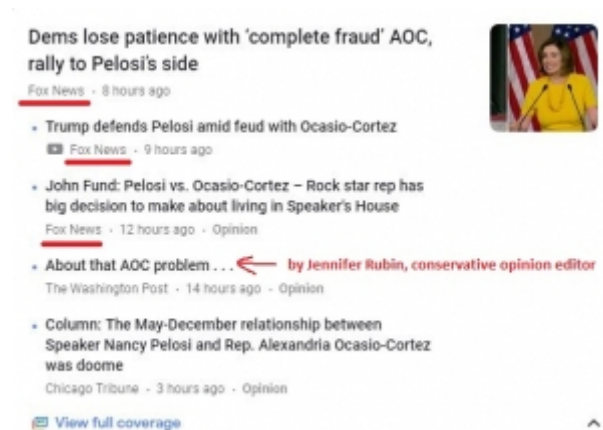


A FEUD FOR FUN AND PROFIT

[NB: Note the byline, thanks. /~Rayne]

I was doing my usual day's end wrap up routine – shutting off the lights, checking the windows, reading the headlines to make sure the planet hadn't blown up before I shut off my computer.

And this bullshit came up at Google News, just below the Epstein-Acosta coverage:



The screenshot shows a Google News search results page for the query 'AOC'. The main headline is 'Dems lose patience with 'complete fraud' AOC, rally to Pelosi's side' from Fox News, dated 8 hours ago. To the right of this headline is a small image of Nancy Pelosi speaking at a podium. Below the main headline are several related articles:

- 'Trump defends Pelosi amid feud with Ocasio-Cortez' from Fox News, 9 hours ago.
- 'John Fund: Pelosi vs. Ocasio-Cortez – Rock star rep has big decision to make about living in Speaker's House' from Fox News, 12 hours ago, categorized as Opinion.
- 'About that AOC problem...' by Jennifer Rubin, conservative opinion editor, from The Washington Post, 14 hours ago, categorized as Opinion.
- 'Column: The May-December relationship between Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was doome' from Chicago Tribune, 3 hours ago, categorized as Opinion.

At the bottom left of the search results, there is a link that says 'View full coverage'.

I've seen in my Twitter feed all day the hullabaloo about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez' chief of staff's remarks and the subsequent flurry of feedback between different factions among the House Democrats. Some of it is hotly reactionary, some of it is measured, and a lot of it swings wildly in between.

But that snapshot of my Google News front page is EXACTLY what the *real* problem is: the internecine conflict is a fulcrum on which the right-wing and foreign agents can act to divide the party at a time when it can least afford it.

And the right-wing media like Fox News is using that same point for its own amusement and profit.

Even neutral-to-left media is using the tensions to gin up clicks and increase readership.

They have zero interest in the manifold crises on which the entire spectrum of Democrats – from

stick-in-the-mud conservadems to hot-under-the-collar progressives – must work together. The media is only in this for fun and profit.

Meanwhile there's a wholly corrupt, malignant narcissist intent on undermining everything on which our country was founded. House Democrats need to quit their circular firing squad and get their heads together. They need to focus on that wretch and the debris field he's making of our nation instead of allowing themselves to be used as a profit center by the media.

Focus on the fact only 86 House Dems have committed to supporting an impeachment inquiry. ~132 more votes are needed to pass a resolution kicking off the process.

We are now nearly 191 days into the 116th Congressional term. Trump continues to lock up children in cages and take babies from their parents at the border, leaving them in concentration camp conditions which wouldn't be tolerated for dogs. He continues to trash the Constitution from threatening war to ignoring Supreme Court decisions. That an impeachment inquiry hasn't already been launched reflects badly on the *entirety* of House Democrats, from Speaker Pelosi to the 2018 Blue Wave freshmen.

~ ~ ~

This weekend I have a couple of voters staying with me who identify as independents. They tend to vote for Democrats but they won't commit to being Democrats. They're 25 years old, college-educated, and they actually watched the Democratic presidential candidates debates a couple weeks ago, rushed home from work to make sure they caught both nights in full.

These young people are fed up. They're worried, angry, disgusted. They want real and rational leadership, especially because they're deeply concerned about the pace of climate change.

They are NOT impressed by the inability of House Democrats to pull themselves into a cohesive cohort to stop Trump.

The more senior House Dems need to understand social media presence and follower count may not convert to votes on the House floor now, but these convert to votes in primaries next year. They convert to many small donations online between now and November 2020 as well as shoe leather when canvassing and GOTV matter. These two independents visiting me are exactly the people who'll be persuaded by what they read in their Twitter feed and watch at YouTube; they have the disposable income to make regular donations. They're not impressed by representatives who suck up to corporations over individuals especially when there's campaign donations involved. They're impressed by accessible representatives who do their homework and then do their best to ensure government oversight.

They want House Democrats to get their act together and stop Trump.

None of the tweeted and reported bullshit I saw being slung between House Democrats gets them any closer to doing what the 2018 Blue Wave told Democrats needed to be done. I don't have a good explanation for these young voters as to when House Dems will pull out of their navel-gazing spiral. I can only hope it's soon.

This is an open thread.