

THE REPUBLICAN CLOSING ARGUMENT AGAINST IMPEACHMENT IS PERSONALLY IMPLICATED IN THE SCANDAL

I'm waiting on the procedural votes to authorize the House impeachment inquiry. There were some nice speeches, with Speaker Pelosi lecturing the Republicans about American history, Republicans repeating the same quote from Alexander Hamilton over and over, Steve Scalise posing next to an image of the Kremlin [Correction: This is St. Basil's Cathedral], and Eric Swalwell accusing the President of using taxpayer dollars to lead an "an extortion shakedown scheme."

But perhaps the most telling aspect of the debate is that the Republican closing argument – yet another recital of that same Hamilton quote – came from Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy.

Kevin McCarthy is implicated in the scandal he doesn't want investigated.

McCarthy received money both personally and in the guise of his Protect the House PAC from Igor Fruman and Lev Parnas, the grifters at the core of the influence operation that led to Trump's quid pro quo conversation with Volodymyr Zelensky. He also keynoted an event with the grifters. While he has said he'd donate the money to charity (though has not yet, as far as I know, shown that he did that), there is no way to unring the bell of their support. He became Majority Leader with the support of men who have since been indicted for that support.

That is the face that is leading opposition to impeachment.

Update: Here's the roll call.

- Impeachment curious
Republicans Will Hurd and
Francis Rooney both voted
against the inquiry
- Democrats Collin Peterson
and Jeff Van Drew also voted
against
- Justin Amash voted for the
inquiry
- Republicans Jody Hice, John
Rose, and William Timmons,
and Democrat Donald McEachin
did not vote

So 98.5% of the Republican caucus voted to do
nothing after another branch of government
usurped Congress' power of the purse.