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# Top Dem: Trump impeachment would have to be bipartisan

## Rep. Jerrold Nadler vows not to "tear the country apart"

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Buck Ennis

The Democrat positioned to spearhead any potential impeachment of President Donald Trump won't pull the trigger on proceedings without GOP backing.

That was the message that Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, delivered at a *Crain's* breakfast forum Thursday morning. Nadler, a 13-term Democrat representing parts of Manhattan and Brooklyn, has feuded with Trump for decades, and he will almost certainly become the committee's chairman if Democrats capture the House this fall.

But even though that committee would be charged with holding any initial inquiries into the conduct of the president and filing articles of impeachment, Nadler insisted he would only pursue that course under specific circumstances—including securing at least some Republican support.

"Impeachment should not be partisan," Nadler said. "You have to be in a situation to undertake impeachment where you believe that once all the evidence is public, not a majority but a good fraction of the opposition voters who supported the president would say, 'Well, they had to do it. It was the right thing to do.'"

Moderator Greg David, a *Crain's* columnist, recalled that the Manhattan-Brooklyn congressman opposed the impeachment of former President Bill Clinton in the late 1990s, even though the Democratic commander in chief had committed perjury.

"An impeachable offense is not a crime," Nadler said, but rather an action or policy that poses a direct threat to the institutions and Constitution of the United States.

"Perjury about a private sexual affair has nothing to do with anything," Nadler said. "If the president perjured himself about colluding with Russians, that would be worthy of impeachment. Perjury about some real estate deal that happened 10 years ago that the Trump Organization took, that would not be an impeachable offense. It would be a crime."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, a fellow Judiciary Committee member who also spoke at the *Crain's* forum, echoed Nadler. He said Republicans—not Democrats—were fomenting rumors of impending impeachment proceedings as part of an effort to rile the GOP base ahead of the midterm elections.

"The drum for impeachment is not being beat by House Democrats or Senate Democrats. It is being beat by the president and his co-conspirators on the other side," Jeffries said. "This notion that as soon as we get the gavel, the first thing we're going to do is march toward impeachment couldn't be further from the truth."

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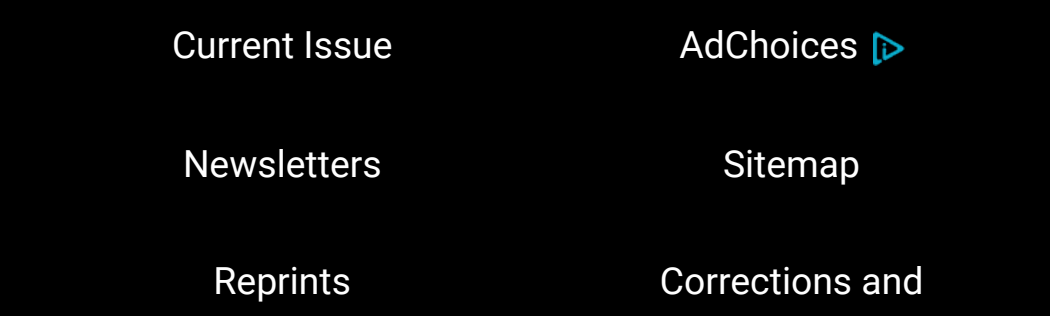
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**glsfbg** a year ago

How does Congressman Nadler feel about Maxine Waters' Keith Ellison, Al Green, etc. who are very vocal about impeachment? Green has already entered articles of impeachment more than once.

Reply

**StanChaz** a year ago edited

I do believe that despite Trump we still have something called freedom of speech. Unlike the Republicans who have sold their souls and values to Trump in exchange for tax-cuts to the wealthiest as they march with him like lemmings, Democrats, on the other hand, still value diversity of opinion, and practice it.

Congressman Nadler and his rational views will be the deciding factor with regard to possible impeachment should the House turn Republican in November. At the very least things should be brought out into the open, into the sunshine of legitimate investigations, rather than being hidden and subverted in the sham circus that we today have in Congress under Republican rule.

Reply

**glsfbg** a year ago

You didn't answer the question. I didn't expect you to.

Reply

**Susan Jones** a year ago

The democrats screaming with there fists up in the air because they are so lazy not to work for the people who put them there in the first place. The dems are the lazy party and it shows, They all need to be voted out of office and we need term limits to get these old farts out. We need campaign reform so Nancy P. won't be giving out her millions from super pac fun money. Come on democrats get DACA and immigration reform passed and a budget. Democrats and liberal media drag this country down.

Reply

**StanChaz** a year ago edited

Seems like you're the one screaming about others screaming... Perhaps we'll get you a mirror my dear Susan, a real one -- instead of the funhouse mirror you're using that projects all your Party's faults onto the Dems.

Come on Republicans, save your own skins and join the coming blue wave. Lifeguard Trump doesn't give a damn about you. For it's all about Trump Inc. & him - a man who erroneously thinks he's above the law.

I find it amusing that Republicans embrace being labeled as red, because as in the old slogan of "better red than dead" they indeed are the traitors of today in enabling Trump, not only in his embracing of Putin, but also in his undermining the most valuable institutions of our American society, our separation of powers, and our international relationships - not to mention the fourth estate. When he's not golfing that is.

What's truly dragging this country down is that snake-oil-salesman & wanna-be-dictator called Donald Trump - our tantrum-tweeting, racist-ranting, war-hero-dissing, health-care-destroying, lobbyist-loving, tax-evading, tariff-crazed, wife-cheating, mistress-bribing, kids-in cages & bone-spur-Putin-loving-traitorous Liar-In-Chief, --our sorry sorry excuse for a President. When he's not busy dividing or distracting us and shamelessly creating fake scapegoats, this con-man is selling us off to the highest bidder, or selling us out to our lowest low-life enemies, as he furthers Trump Inc. and the agendas of his ultra-rich buddies & comrades.

1 Reply

**Dan G** a year ago

I agree with Stan. Trump hates Canadiens too, you left that out Stan.

Reply

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