Back to Videos

Rep. Al Green: "I'm Concerned If We Don't Impeach This President, He Will Get Re-Elected"

Posted By Tim Hains
On Date May 6, 2019

Rep. Al Green told MSNBC Saturday that he is "concerned if we don’t impeach this president, he will get re-elected."

"As I look the people of America in the eye, I’m telling you, we have a constitutional crisis," Green said. "We must impeach this president. If you don’t, it’s not the soul of the nation that will be at risk only, it is the soul of the Congress that’s at risk."

PRESIDENT TRUMP, 16 JULY 2018: I have President Putin, he just said it's not Russia. I will say this, I don't see any reason why it would be. I have great confidence in my intelligence people, but I will tell you that President Putin is extremely strong and powerful in his denial today.

MSNBC HOST: Congressman, how do you interpret President Trump not telling Vladimir Putin to stay out of our next election?

REP. AL GREEN: I see this as unconscionable, it's inconceivable. One can only imagine what it does to the *esprit de corps* of the persons who work in our intelligence agencies. They have said the Russians interfered. Mr. Mueller has said the Russians interfered. The president has not, and he talks about a great relationship between Mr. Putin and Russia. He may have a great relationship but the American people do not. It's the American people we have to put above the American president. It's unfortunate he would make such a statement.

MSNBC HOST: You have been calling for starting articles of impeachment since 2017, but a new Quinnipiac poll taken after the release of the redacted Mueller report said 66% say Congress should not start impeachment proceedings, there's a sharp partisan divide, with only 4% of Republicans favoring impeachment. Are you afraid this talk will help the president's re-election?

REP. AL GREEN: I'm concerned that if we don't impeach this president, he will get re-elected. If we don't impeach him, he will say he's been vindicated. He will say the Democrats had an overwhelming majority in the House and didn't take up impeachment. He will say we have a constitutional duty to do it if it was there and we didn't. He will say he's been vindicated.

Here's what I say, we're confronting a constitutional crisis as I speak to you. As I look at the people of America in the eye, I'm telling you, we have a constitutional crisis. The chief executive office of the president of the United States refuses to comply with subpoenas and says he will order others to do so, this creates a constitutional crisis. But this isn't the genesis of it. It started when the president decided he would fire Mr. Comey for his failure -- pardon me, as a result of his desire not to be investigated. And when he decided to do this and went on national TV at primetime and indicated he was thinking about this Russia thing, that was the genesis of it. We have a constitutional crisis.

I regret I'm the canary in the coal mine. I regret I was the person who had to first say there's some obstruction taking place here. I regret it had to be me but it had to be somebody. I take my duties seriously. I love my country and want you to know this, we must impeach this president. If we don't, it's not the soul of the nation that will be at risk only, it is the soul of the Congress that's at risk. Congress has a duty, a responsibility, an obligation that only it can fulfill. No one else can no. Other entity can. It is Congress that will have to act. If we put people above party, we'll act properly. But if we allow a party to be above principle, we will not. If we allow political expediency to trump moral imperative, we will have created a shameful situation that this Congress will never live down. History won't be kind to us. We must impeach him.

MSNBC HOST: I do understand you believe you are duty bound but strategically speaking here, are you okay with the president going through impeachment proceedings and then at the very end in the Republican-controlled Senate where he needs to be convicted, headlines all over the country saying "Trump acquitted"

right in the middle of the presidential election campaign?

REP. AL GREEN: Dr. King said -- and I agree completely -- the time is always right to do right. The right thing for the Congress to do is impeach. Let the Senate do what they may. We have to do what they must.

This is not a game. This is not about who's going to do well in the polls. The polls will catch up with justice when we show people that we have the backbone, the spine to do what this constitution demands of us when we have an unfit, reckless, ruthless, lawless president in the White House. We say that. We talk about it. You will hear Democrats talking about how he's unfit to be president, how he is doing things that are unconscionable and unconstitutional.

The question is this, will we go beyond these things being talking points and make them an action item? Will we take them to the floor of the one place in the world where the president can be brought to the bar of justice -- that's the House of Representatives. That's our moral duty to do so. Moral imperative has to trump political expediency. This notion that if it goes to the Senate, it will not be politically expedient to have it happen, my dear brother, that will cause this country to lose Article

Two Section Four of the Constitution which deals with impeachment. The framers knew there would be a time such as this, and a president such as Trump, and if anybody cares to read Federalist 65, you will find the words of Hamilton, you will find the words of Madison and John Jay where they explain why we at a time such as this have to deal with the president such as Trump with impeachment.

Related Videos

'Face The Nation' Panel: Did Barr Lie Under Oath? Would Impeachment Be A Waste Of Time?

CBS's "Face the Nation" host Margaret Brennan hosts Byron York, Shawna Thomas, Rachael Bade, and Michael Crowley for a panel discussion on the Mueller report investigation and presidential impeachment.

Michael Crowley | Rachael Bade | Shawna Thomas | Byron York

'Meet The Press' Roundtable: Dems Debate Impeachment, Trump Speaks With Putin About "Russian Hoax"

Gerald Seib, Kristen Soltis Anderson, Eddie Glaude Jr., and Eliana Johnson join NBC's "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd to discuss President Trump's phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin and next steps for Democrats.

Eddie Glaude | Eliana Johnson | Kristen Soltis Anderson | Gerald Seib

Related Topics: Al Green, Trump Impeachment, Impeachment

Sign Up For RC Newsletters

Enter your email address

Comment

Show comments 124

You must be logged in to comment.

RCP Account:

Login Register

Popular in the Community

TRUMP: HOUSE DEMOCRATS ARE...

Magnet1

1d

Thank you President Trump; such a breat...

OHIO CRACKS DOWN ON VOTER FRAUD |...

ezra.tank

1d

18 & 77 people might not sound like a lot...

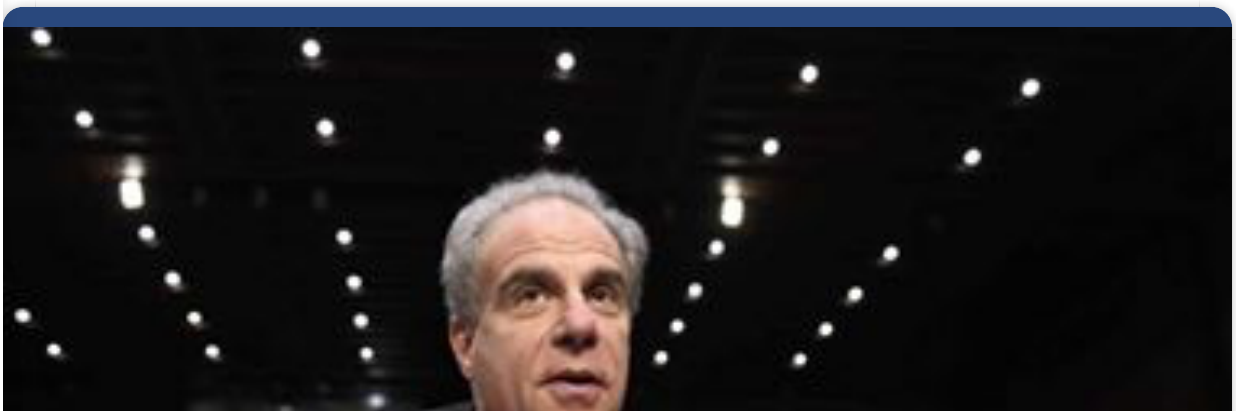
NAD SOL

Yes be

Sponsored

Advertisement

RealClearPolitics



COMMENTARY | The Evidence Against Trump vs. the Evidence Against the FBI…

1 day ago

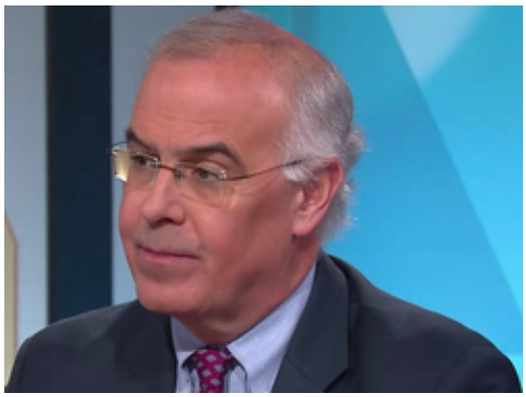
64 likes

Trump's Tra

about 13 hours

17 view

In The News



David Brooks: What Trump Did Clearly An Impeachable Offense, But The Articles Of Impeachment Are Vague

Trump: House Democrats Are "Trivializing Impeachment," "Making Absolute Fools Out Of Themselves"

House Judiciary Republicans Denounce Articles Of Impeachment: "A Sad Day For Our Country"

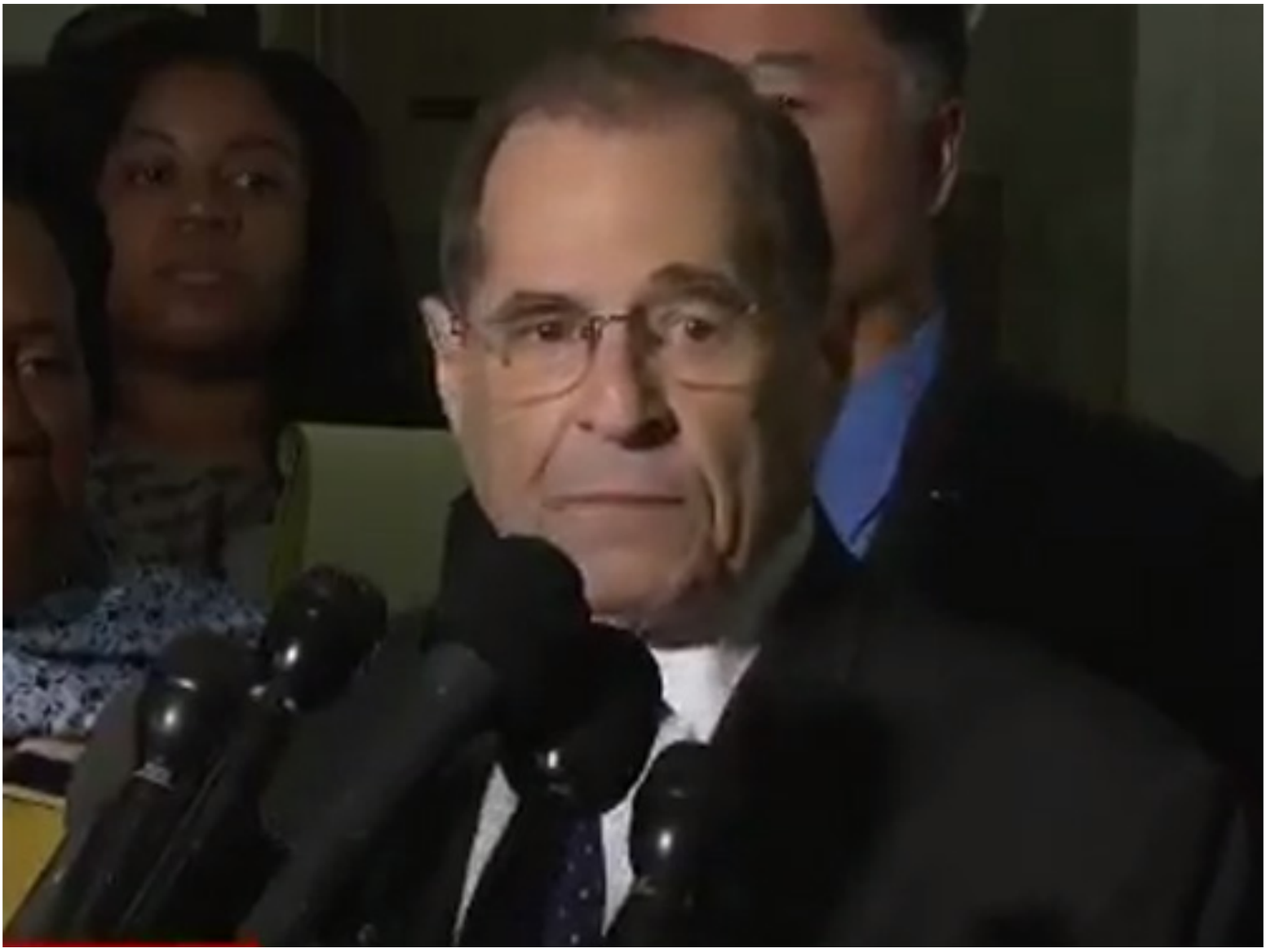
Toobin: "Trump In A Way Has Already Won"; Hunter Biden a "Real Challenge For Us As Journalists"

Nadler: Trump Pressured Ukrainian President To Say He Was Not Pressured; "He Has A Gun To His Head"

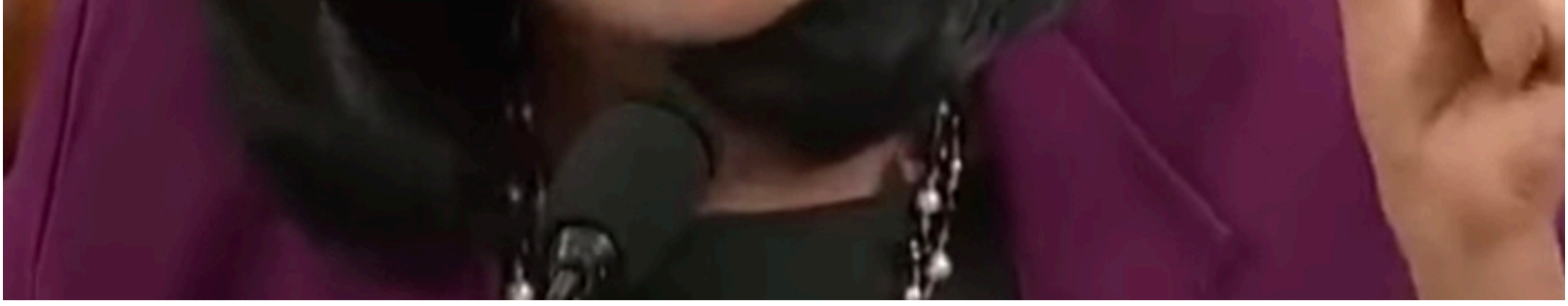
Send Tips Follow Us

Latest Political Videos

Megyn Kelly: Joe and Mika Scarborough Part Of The Reason Trump Became Republican Nominee



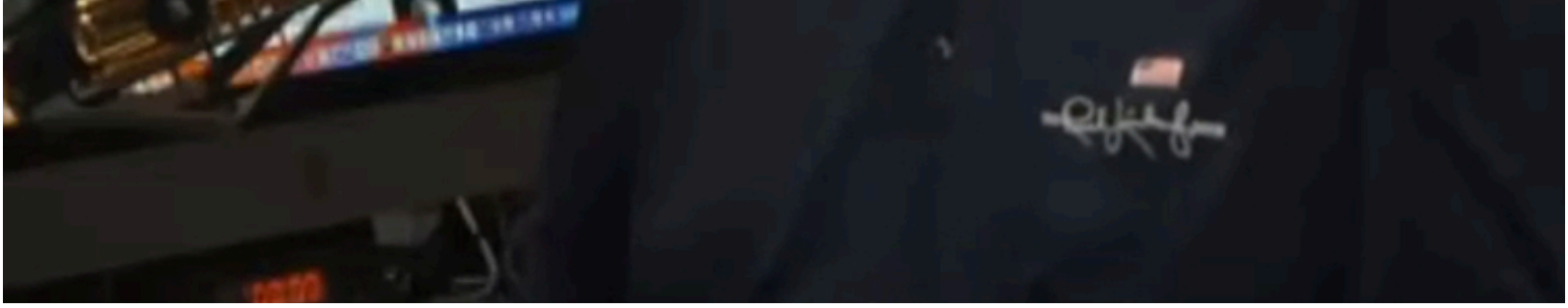
Nadler: "Today Is A Solemn And Sad Day," "The House Will Act Expeditiously"



Jayapal: Trump Didn't Care About Bidens and Burisma When U.S. Gave Ukraine Aid In 2017, 2018

FBN's Stuart Varney: The Tide Is Turning On Impeachment And Trump Is Winning

CNN's Chris Cillizza: President Trump's Feud With FOX News Explained

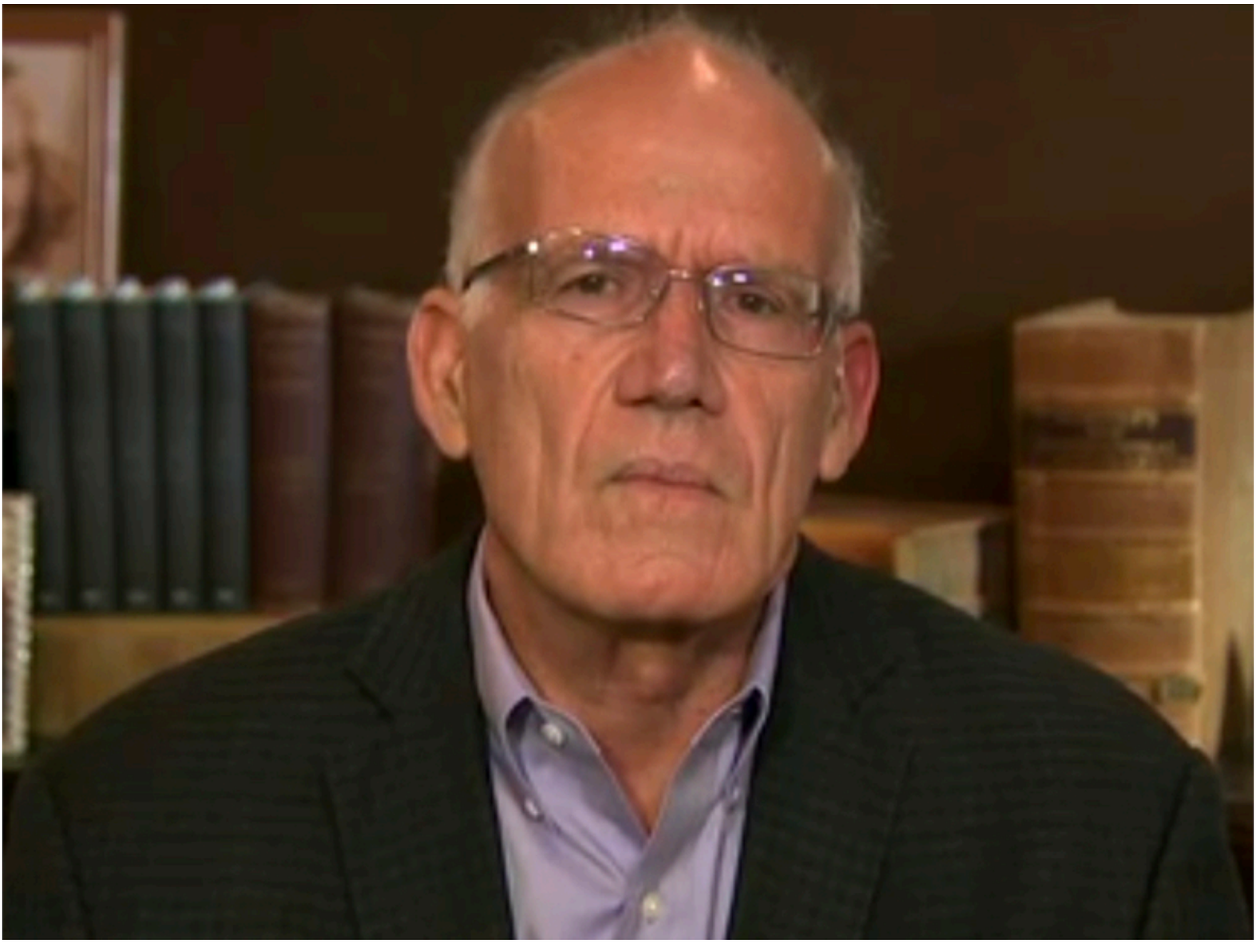


Limbaugh to Republicans: It's Time To Go On Offense For Trump, "Do Not Go Into This Defensively"

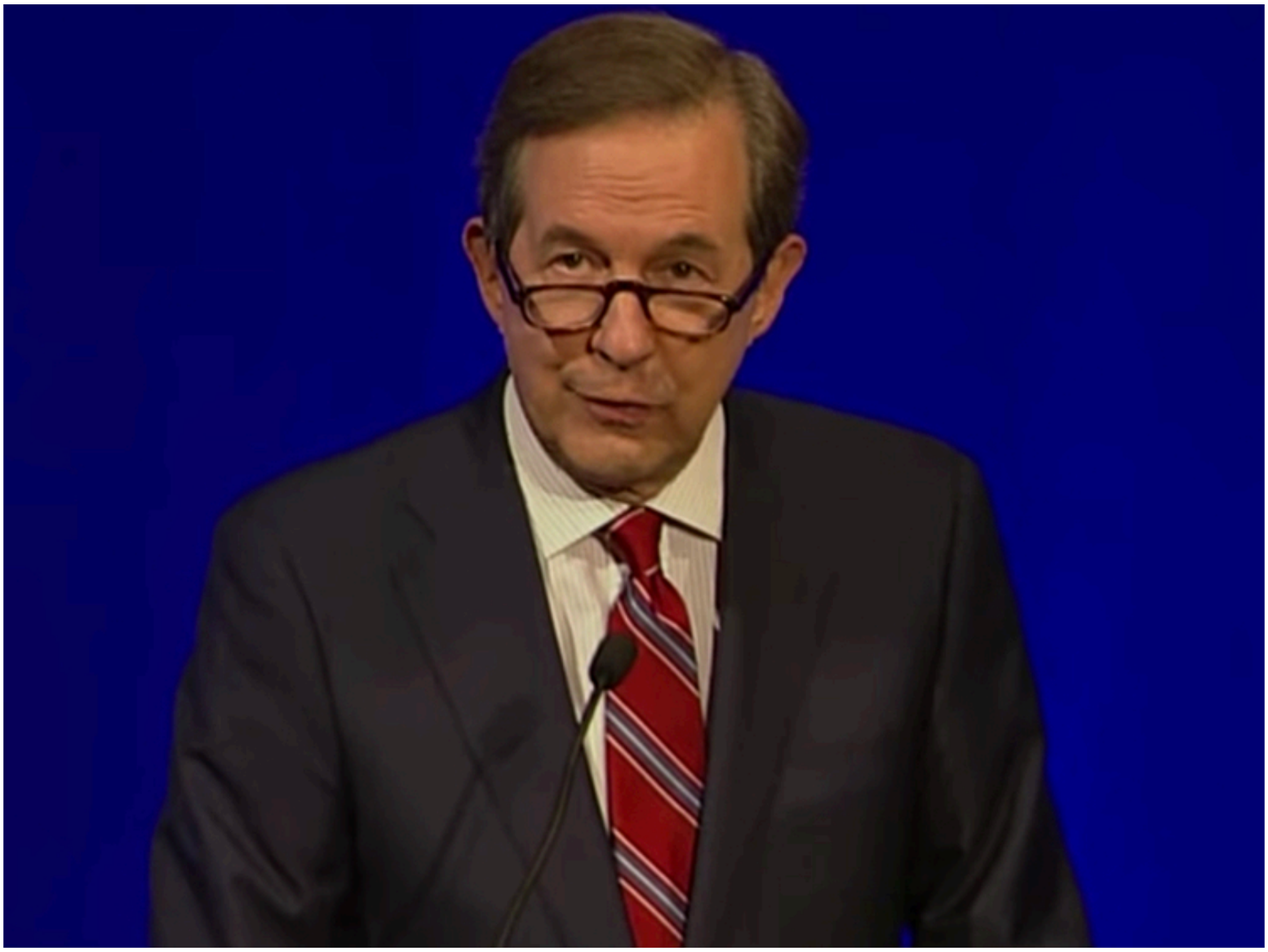
Mark Levin: "Pelosi Project" To Impeach Trump Must Become GOP Project When There Is A Dem President

Cruz: Senate Should Allow Trump To Call Witnesses In His Defense If He Wants To

Replay: House Judiciary Markup Hearing On Articles Of Impeachment, Thursday



Victor Davis Hanson: Instead of Introspection, Democrats Become More Zealous When They Fail to Stop Trump



Chris Wallace: Trump Engaged In Most Direct Sustained Assault On Freedom Of Press In Our History

Graham Promises No Witnesses: "When This Comes To The Senate, I'm Going To Treat It As The Sham It Is"