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IMPEACH BIDEN

• Can GOP overcome internal divisions to remove Joe?

By John Friend

As AFP goes to press, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) announced a formal impeachment inquiry against President Joe Biden would be launched in the House of Representatives, a move many argue was long overdue.

“Today I am directing our House committee to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden,” McCarthy declared at a press conference. “This logical next step will give our committees the full power to gather all of the facts and answers for the American public.”

The House Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Oversight committees will all pursue the impeachment inquiries at McCarthy’s request, seeking more details and information regarding the corruption and foreign influence peddling operation Biden and his disgraced son, Hunter, allegedly developed. This was while Biden served as vice president under Barack Obama.

Under pressure from more populist, right-wing elements in the GOP led by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.), McCarthy announced the inquiry even as calls for his resignation as House speaker grew. Gaetz and other Republican dissidents entered a compromise agreement with GOP leaders allowing McCarthy to become speaker in January. However, Gaetz has



KEVIN McCARTHY
Dedicated to impeaching Biden?

strongly insisted that McCarthy is “out of compliance with the agreement that allowed [him] to assume this role.”

“The path forward for the House of Representatives is to either bring you into immediate total compliance or remove you, pursuant to a motion to vacate the chair,” Gaetz announced on the House floor shortly before McCarthy’s press conference laying out the impeachment inquiry. “I know that Washington isn’t a town where people are known for keeping their word. Speaker McCarthy, I’m here to hold you to yours.”

The internal divisions and battles taking place within the GOP are part and parcel of a broader trend in U.S.

politics, which is increasingly marred by seemingly unbreachable divisions between the diverse factions within and among the major parties.

Democrats reacted to the Biden impeachment inquiry in typical fashion, denouncing the move as a “witch hunt” designed to target a political opponent, which is precisely what former President Donald Trump and his supporters have been arguing the Democrats have been doing for years.

Even Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is often more honest in his assessment of American politics and geopolitical developments than any U.S. politician, recently described the U.S. political system as “rotten.”

The prosecution of Trump is, according to Putin, demonstrating “the rottenness of the American political system, which cannot pretend to teach others about democracy.”

“Everything that is happening with Trump is the persecution of a political rival for political reasons,” Putin told attendees of the Eastern Economic Forum. “And this is being done in front of the public of the United States and the whole world.”

The dysfunctional nature of American politics could not be more apparent as the country gears up for what will likely be yet another hotly contested presidential election.

As of today, one popular candidate faces a century in jail if convicted on multiple state and federal charges, while his prospective opponent may be shown to have engaged in the worst influence-peddling scheme by a high-ranking elected official in U.S. history.

The question that must be asked now is, “What is best for the country?” Would Biden’s removal usher in a more lucid, energetic progressive to make things worse? And how might any conservative candidate fare against a contender other than Biden? ★

THE INSIDE SCOOP



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