The Mueller Report—an Inevitable Rhetorical Refrain

March, 28, 2019

In the absence of special counsel Robert Mueller’s report, we don’t know anything except attorney general Bill Barr’s opinion. However, we do know:

- The media will speculate in an endless dramatic loop, calling it “breaking news.”

- Democrats will continue pressing for release of the full report and all underlying documents, making clear that Barr’s inferences about obstruction are not Mueller’s conclusions, and many questions remain unanswered.

- In addition to asserting he is exonerated, President Trump and his supporters will unleash, as they already have begun, an angry rhetorical barrage against the Democrats, accusing them of lying they had evidence to prove collusion, and suggesting their motive is to hurt Trump rather than tackling important issues facing the country.
• Republicans, in a punitive spirit, will call for investigations of others not part of Mueller’s charge, including Hillary Clinton, James Comey and President Obama.

• The impact of all this might eclipse and make challenging a unified and positive Democrat message for the 2020 campaign.

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