Exposing Trump’s Rhetorical Refrain as a Facade

October 20, 2019

The rhetorical refrain of Trump supporters, the conservative media and the Republicans is consistent, inaccurate, and nonresponsive. For example, when President Donald Trump is accused of wrongdoing, they predictably and regularly respond by invoking examples of Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and other Democrats—examples that factually are dissimilar, sharing little in common with Trump’s behavior.

Trump apologists should be reminded of the facts. Since 1965 Republicans in power: 120 indictments, 89 convictions, and 34 prison sentences. During the same period Democrats in power: 3 indictments, 1 conviction, and 1 prison sentence.
Trump apologists also must be asked: Why do you incessantly refuse to say that what President Trump is doing is unacceptable and inappropriate.

Finally, Trump’s defenders should be pressed to explain why, even if other presidents are guilty of wrongdoing, two wrongs make a right.

It’s time to expose and analyze the rhetorical refrain of those who continually defend President Trump, regardless of what he says and does. We must call out false equivalency, distortion and deflection. After all, our national security is in jeopardy—the severity of which is unprecedented.

Rick Cherwitz
Ernest A. Sharpe Centennial Professor Emeritus, Moody College of Communication