Trump’s Rhetorical Strategy

For those concerned about Trump’s disregard for the law and fundamental tenets of democracy, it’s tempting to believe that the Cohen and Paul Manafort cases are evidence that we’ve finally reached the turning point. While perhaps true, consider what appears to be the president’s rhetorical strategy.

For Trump and his team, this never has been about what transpires in a court of law; it’s about the court of public opinion. So the question remains: How will Republicans in Congress react?

Thus far the Republicans have chosen to place party above country and ethical principles. And that’s not likely to change no matter how many of Trump’s hired hands are found guilty in court. The record is clear: most Republicans care more about lowering taxes, reducing government regulations and getting a Supreme Court pick. Legal issues are nuanced and aren’t as immediately relevant and threatening, for example, as the death of a woman at the hands of an undocumented immigrant.

The only thing that might change this is the Democrats flipping Congress in November, bringing back accountability and the rule of law.

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