Democrats—Don’t Shoot Yourselves in the Foot

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While impeachment is a political matter, its outcome is influenced by rhetoric. Therefore, why did Democratic Representative Jamie Raskin (Maryland) feel compelled Wednesday to rush out and talk to the press about the Department of State Inspector General’s Congressional briefing.

By his own admission this was not urgent and included “nothing relating to the president’s impeachable conduct”? Raskin said it pertained to a packet of misinformation and debunked conspiracy theories apparently meant to smear the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, as well as Joe and Hunter Biden—a packet whose author is unknown, that was given to Secretary of State Pompeo whose legal advisers then turned it over to the State Department IG.
The story most of the day on Wednesday was President Trump’s seeming meltdown in response to the accelerated impeachment inquiry. So why give oxygen to this unrelated story? What’s troubling about Raskin’s immediate and incomplete reaction is that it likely will become part of Trump’s and the Republican’s deflection, confuse and conquer, and indict the accuser rhetorical narrative. Stop shooting yourselves in the foot, Democrats!

The documents given to Congress by the State Department IG may be interesting. But the Democrats need to heed Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi’s advice: Keep it simple and stay focused.

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