

Editorial: Trump reaction from the GOP dispels myth

If there is one thing that the recent controversy regarding President Donald Trump's summit with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin proves it is that Republicans will criticize the president, if they feel the need.

Contrary to the popular belief (held primarily among Democrats and liberals) that Republicans will not oppose the president no matter what, several Republican and conservatives were critical of the president's comments toward Russia and Putin - comments that are now well-known and have created a firestorm.

Here is what several Republicans had to say:

- Newt Gingrich (in a tweet): "President Trump must clarify his statements in Helsinki on our intelligence system and Putin. It is the most serious mistake of his presidency and must be corrected - immediately."
- U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy (in a statement): "I am confident former CIA Director and current Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, DNI Dan Coats, Ambassador Nikki Haley, FBI Director Chris Wray, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and others will be able to communicate to the President it is possible to conclude Russia interfered with our election in 2016 without delegitimizing his electoral success."
- Retired Lt. Col. and former Fox News analyst Ralph Peters said (on CNN) that the president "groveled" before Putin.
- House Speaker Paul Ryan (in a statement): "There is no question that Russia interfered in our election and continues attempts to undermine democracy here and around the world. That is not just the finding of the American intelligence community but also the House Committee on Intelligence."

And there were many more harsher comments against the president from Republicans and conservatives, but the aforementioned quotes should suffice.

Does the president deserve this backlash from his own? Time will tell, because actions mean more than words, and words alone do not always reflect foreign policy.

However, the reaction from some in the GOP to Trump's comments about Russia and Putin prove one thing - that accusations that describe Republicans as beholden to the president no matter the circumstances are not accurate.

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