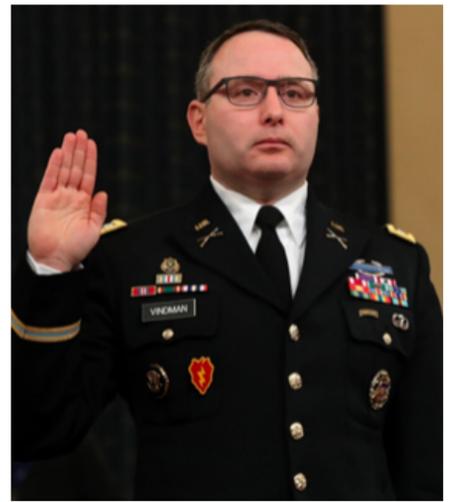


The Aftermath

RIDERS ON THE STORM

Of course we knew that an acquittal would embolden and unleash Trump (f there ever was a leash) and we were not wrong. Trump's revenge purge of impeachment witnesses proved once again that in this administration cruelty is the point. Not content to have **Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman** removed from his position in the White House, he publicly had him 'walked out' – an unnecessary humiliation. And his brother, **Yevgeny**, also tasked to the NSC, was also fired, and also walked out.



Of course, that also wasn't enough. Trump tweet-stormed about Vindman, calling him "insubordinate" and a "leaker", lacking in "judgement" and that he had received a "horrendous" performance evaluation.

Also on Friday, we learned Trump had fired **Ambassador Gordon Sondland**, recalling him from his EU post with no new posting planned. So much for that million dollars!



And what about **Mitt Romney**? The lone Republican voice for conviction has been called a "Democrat Secret Asset" (by the president; a "pu**y" (by the president's eldest son), a sore loser by a Republican reps, and a "skirt-wearing-little pajama boy Millennial snowflake" by former Trump busboy Sebastian Gorka, according to Forbes.

AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING



Other than the lying, the swearing and ranting in the East Room, the general meanness and unnecessary exertion of humiliation, these were all sort of small-time bully behaviors. Trump was not heeding "Be Best." But surely the personal destruction of a few patriotic Americans is just the start. And it didn't take long for that to be proved.

AG Bill Barr has ordered the DOJ to run all politically sensitive investigations into individual candidates or campaigns must be approved by him in advance. Sure that sounds reasonable, but analysts fear it is a way of protecting Trump from any further SDNY investigations, while opening a door to politically-motivated probes of Democratic candidates to fuel Republican campaigns.

Two other moves by the administration last week may also signal the president is testing his new-found freedom.

New York State residents are now [barred from access to the Global Entry and Trusted Traveler programs](#) that make international travel faster and more efficient for those who have approved access. As per apparent policy, there was no advance notice to Congress or New York officials before putting it into effect on Friday. The state's attorney general Letitia James said: "We will not allow New Yorkers to be targeted or bullied by an authoritarian thug." Does this have anything to do with impeachment? Maybe it's just a coincidence that the day after his acquittal, he swats at a giant thorn in his side.

Perhaps this is also a coincidence: [On Thursday, the administration announced it was opening up land in Utah – formerly protected as national monuments - to mining and oil drilling.](#) Those plans had been in the works for a while, but is it yet another coincidence that Trump chose the day after the Senate vote to stick it to Utah?

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It's our last issue of **This Week in Impeachment**, so we thought we'd end with a look at the past week through the eyes of the nation's editorial cartoonists.

[Enjoy the video.](#)

