

KINZINGER'S CLOSING REMARKS, as written:

The Justice Department lawyers are not the President's personal lawyers. We count on them to be on the side of the law and to defend the best interests of the United States – not the best interests of any political campaign. That's how it's been since the Department was founded soon after the Civil War. Justice Department lawyers are supposed to play it 100% straight.

President Trump tried to erase his loss at the ballot box by parachuting an unqualified man into the top job at Justice. It was a power play to win at all costs – with no regard for the will of the American people.

It was about ignoring millions of votes. Ignore them, throw them out or label fraudulent, corrupt, illegal – whatever. Facts were clearly just an inconvenience.

From the Oval Office, President Trump urged others to bring his big lie to life. He begged: "Just say the election was corrupt and leave the rest to me and the Republican congressmen." He didn't care what the Department's investigations proved. What good were facts when they only confirmed his loss? And it's no surprise that all the far-out, fully fabricated, whack job conspiracy theories collapsed under even the slightest scrutiny. That insanity went from its invention, right up to the highest levels of government in mere minutes.

The bottom line? The most senior leadership of the Justice Department, from Attorney General Bill Barr to Jeff Rosen, his successor, and his Deputy, Rich Donoghue – you heard from them today – everyone except Jeff Clark was telling President Trump the very same thing: The conspiracy theories were false. The allegations of a stolen election were a lie. The data left no room for doubt, nothing to question. And the Constitution left no room for President Trump to change the outcome of the election.

But we're here today because the facts were irrelevant to President Trump. It was about protecting his very real power and very fragile ego, even if it required recklessly undermining our entire electoral system by wildly casting baseless doubt upon it. In short, he was willing to sacrifice our republic to prolong his presidency. I can imagine no more dishonorable act by a President.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to these gentlemen you've heard from here today – real leaders who stood for Justice when it was in grave peril, who put their country first when the leader of the free world demanded otherwise. They threatened to resign rather than corrupt our democracy. Thanks largely to each of them, President Trump's coup failed.

Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL)
Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the US Capitol
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Contrast Jeff Clark, who would do exactly what the President wanted: Say there was massive fraud – forget the facts – and leave the rest to President Trump’s congressional friends.

Mr. Clark refused to cooperate with this Committee; he plead the Fifth. Why risk self-incrimination? And President Trump’s congressional friends – some of them angling for pardons? They wouldn’t cooperate with this Committee, either. Why take the risk? They knew what they did was wrong, every bit of it was a lie.

That’s all the more reason to respect those who came here to testify today. We thank them for their unflinching service in the face of incredible pressure.

As it’s said, “The only thing necessary for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing.” Thankfully, there were good people in the Department of Justice. You heard from other good people on Tuesday; they, too, defended us. But I’m still worried that not enough has changed to prevent this from happening again.

The oath we take has to mean something, it has to cut to the core of who we are and be the driving force of our service to this nation. We on this committee may be able to shine light on the darkness, but that’s not enough. It is up to every American, now and in the future, to stand for truth and reject the lies – whether we confront them in our town or capitals; in our friendships or families; at our ballot boxes; and within our own minds and hearts.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.