



30 Republicans Storm the Democrats' Closed Door Impeachment Session Demanding an End to Secrecy

Thirty House Republicans, led by Representative Matt Gaetz, stormed a closed-door session in the impeachment investigation of President Trump, prompting House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff to suspend the proceedings in a remarkable scene. Matt Gaetz says Democrats have used secret interviews, selective leaks, and lies about whistleblowers. When Democrats failed with the Russia investigation, they changed their strategy to preventing Republicans from cross examining witnesses. [Impeachment is unlikely, but the purpose is to continue the theater of fierce conflict between the two parties when, in reality, there is little or none.] -GEG

House Republicans led by Rep. [Matt Gaetz](#), R-Fla., on Wednesday essentially stormed a closed-door session connected to the impeachment investigation of [President Trump](#), prompting House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff to suspend the proceedings in a remarkable scene.

The standoff happened Wednesday morning after lawmakers held a press conference in which they accused House Democrats of lack of transparency.

"We're going to try and go in there, and we're going to try to figure out what's going on, on behalf of the millions of Americans that we represent that want to see this Congress working for them and not obsess with attacking a president who we believe has not done anything to deserve impeachment," Gaetz said.

The Republicans specifically called out Schiff, D-Calif., who is leading the investigation.

"What is Adam Schiff trying to hide?" asked House Minority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La. "I think that's the question so many people have, so many of my colleagues have, so many people in the press should have."

"Voting members of Congress are being denied access from being able to see what's happening behind these closed doors where they're trying to impeach the president of the United States with a one-sided set of rules," Scalise continued. "They call the witnesses. They don't let anybody else call the witnesses."

We're gonna go and see if we can get inside," Gaetz said at the conclusion of the press conference.

From there, about 30 House Republicans flooded the room where Laura Cooper, who oversees Ukraine policy at the Department of Defense, was set to testify.

Because there was no agreement for non-committee members to be present, this "sit-in" created an immediate standoff. Fox News is told that Schiff did not ask the U.S. Capitol Police to arrest or remove Republicans who charged in – but he did leave the room and apparently does not plan to start the interview until the situation is resolved.

Fox News is told about a dozen Republicans were still in the secure facility known as a SCIF as of early afternoon. In another complication, some non-committee members brought in

phones and other electronic devices in possible violation of House rules.

The Republicans showed no sign of leaving any time soon, with 17 pizzas arriving in the afternoon. Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., also showed up with what he described as “relief supplies” for the GOP members: two large bags from Chick-fil-A.

GOP lawmakers flooded Twitter with posts from the scene.

“Adam Schiff just SHUT DOWN his secret underground impeachment hearing after I led a group of Republicans into the room. Now he’s threatening me with an Ethics complaint! I’m on the Armed Services Cmte but being blocked from the Dept. Asst. SecDef’s testimony. This is a SHAM!” Rep. Bradley Byrne, R-Ala., tweeted.

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