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Effective  
April 1, 2017**

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Minimum Service CHG.  
\$50.00  
A small distance/travel  
charge may be applied

**CARPET CLEANING**  
2 Cleaning Areas or more  
\$30.00 each Area  
**Pre-Spray Traffic Areas**  
(Includes: 1 small Hallway)  
1 Cleaning Area (only)  
\$50.00  
Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area  
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**Stairs (12-16 stairs - With  
Other Services): \$30.00**

**Area/Oriental Rugs:**  
\$25.00 Minimum

**Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool):**  
\$40.00 Minimum

**Heavily Soiled Area:**  
\$10.00 each area  
(Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

### **UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**

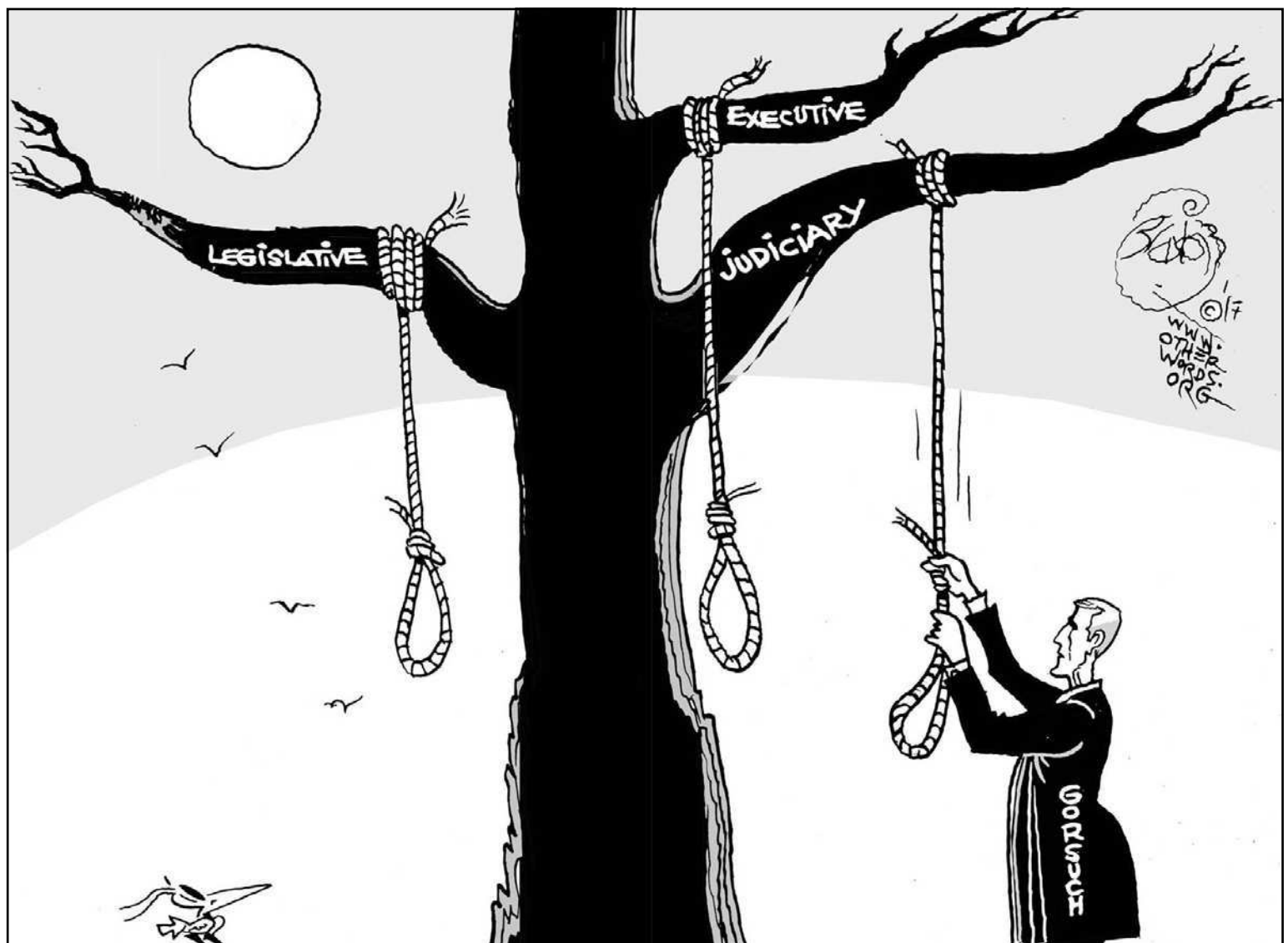
Sofa: \$69.00  
Loveseat: \$49.00  
Sectional: \$109 - \$139  
Chair or Recliner:  
\$25.00 - \$49.00  
Throw Pillows (With  
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# OPINION



## Failing Ploys from The Great Distracter

### Diverting attention from Russia

BY MEL GURTOV

Three of Donald Trump's latest ploys to distract attention from Russiagate have failed.

First was Rep. Devin Nunes' late night visit to the White House under escort by two staff members to view classified information. The visit increasingly looks like a prearranged attempt to divert his committee's



investigation into Russiagate.

One of Nunes' escorts had been appointed by Michael Flynn, the former national security assistant; efforts by Flynn's successor, H.R. McMaster, to remove him were reportedly thwarted by Trump. As his spokesperson Sean Spicer might say, this episode doesn't pass the smell test." Trump is grasping for straws—anything that will lead the media and investigators away from the Russia matter, all the more so now that Jared Kushner's meeting with the representative of a sanctioned Russian bank has become known.

The second ploy is a signature example of Trump's untrustwor-

thiness: His turnabout on immunity for government officials who might be prosecuted for criminal behavior.

As he has shown time and again, what he once said about a matter is irrelevant to what he now says. Recall that in late September 2016, Trump said in reference to Hillary Clinton senior staff seeking immunity over her use of a private email server: "The reason they get immunity is because they did something wrong. If they didn't do anything wrong, they don't think in terms of immunity."

Flynn followed up the same month on NBC's "Meet the Press": "When you are given immunity that means that you have probably committed a crime." A number of other Trump senior staff weighed in at that time, trying to score points off the idea that a President Hillary Clinton would be under FBI investigation for years, presenting an intolerable situation.

Now that Trump is under assault, he wants Flynn to testify under immunity, to challenge the Democrats' "witch hunt." Same old diversion strategy and it too smells bad.

Like Nunes, Flynn is a proven Trump loyalist—a former campaign booster who will do whatever is demanded of him to frus-

trate a probe of collusion with the Russians. Wisely, the Senate Intelligence Committee turned Flynn down, at least for now.

Trump's third ploy is to keep massaging the "wiretap" accusation, each time trying to redirect the media and Congressional investigators. Trump began by directly accusing President Obama of having wiretapped him at Trump Tower.

That accusation got nowhere, so he diverted to the accusation that he and his team had been "surveilled" by Obama's people. Now that that charge has been shown to be nothing more than ordinary and perfectly legal National Security Agency eavesdropping on phone calls initiated from abroad, Trump is asking for investigation of any kind of surveillance by anyone at any time. It's a fishing expedition that he (probably in league with Stephen Bannon) surely knows can go nowhere.

From the president on down, this is an administration on the defensive, populated by people who are their own worst enemies. The Watergate model looks more relevant by the day.

Mel Gurto, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is professor emeritus of political science at Portland State University.

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