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Trump Charged with Abuse and Obstruction

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

the investigations against him as a witch hunt; his spokesperson in the White House said the charges were “baseless;” and his reelection campaign called them “rank partisanship.”

Approval of the impeachment articles would send them to the Senate in January, where the Republican majority would be unlikely to convict Trump.

Democratic leaders say Trump put his political interests above those of the nation when he asked Ukraine to investigate his rivals, including Democrat Joe Biden, and then withheld \$400 million in military aid as the U.S. ally faced



House Democratic leaders, including Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Adam Schiff at the podium, speak during a news conference on Capitol Hill Tuesday announcing two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump. (AP photo)

an aggressive Russia. They say he then obstructed Congress by stonewalling the House investigation. Trump insisted in a new tweet

that when he asked Ukraine’s president “to do us a favor” with the investigations he was requesting, “‘us’ is a reference to USA,

not me!” Democrats, however, say Trump’s meaning could not have been clearer in seeking political dirt on Biden, his possible opponent in the 2020 election.

In drafting the articles of impeachment, Pelosi faced a legal and political challenge of balancing the views of her majority while hitting the Constitution’s bar of “treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors.”

Some liberal lawmakers wanted more expansive charges encompassing the findings from former special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election. Centrist Democrats preferred to keep the impeachment articles more focused on Trump’s actions toward Ukraine.

When asked during a Monday evening event if she had enough votes to impeach the Republican president, Pelosi said she would let House lawmakers vote their conscience.

“On an issue like this, we don’t count the votes. People will just make their voices known on it,” Pelosi said at The Wall Street Journal CEO Council. “I haven’t counted votes, nor will I.”

The next steps are expected to come swiftly after months of investigation into the Ukraine matter, which followed Mueller’s two-year Russia probe.

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