

Local Politics Matter

Mr. Mueller

The Contract Was Verbal

As the political pundits continue to salivate over the Mueller report there is a critical event that occurred during the 2016 political campaign that is not being viewed in its proper perspective. On July 27, 2016 then candidate Donald J. Trump uttered these famous words, "Russia, if you are listening, I hope you'll be able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing. I think you will probably be rewarded mightily by our press". Trump made the remarks at a very unusual news conference in Doral Florida, in which he also made very odd remarks about NATO, and President Obama. While Trump's words have been scrutinized over and over again they are not being viewed in the proper context. Yes, the comments urging Russia to hack the State Department, Hillary

Clinton, the DNC (to locate her "missing" emails) immediately drew widespread attention because a candidate for the US Presidency was actively encouraging another country to use cyberwarfare against the U.S. and a U.S. citizen to affect the presidential election. But no one, including Mr. Mueller took the proper angle of pursuit. In his final report Mr. Mueller concludes that he "did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities," I really think that the Mueller team missed a critical point in coming to their conclusion. My guess is that legally they couldn't make the point stick. I contend that on July 27, 2016 Donald J. Trump en-



tered into a verbal agreement with Russia to execute the hacking of Hillary Clinton's and the DNC's servers to get what they considered damaging emails that would support their campaign.

Regardless of what Mueller and his team found in terms of a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia a case can be made that what millions of Americans saw on July 27, 2016 was enough to kick off an investigation. The fact that Trump commits

criminal acts publicly and in our face does not make them any less criminal.

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