

Devin Nunes Is Living in a Fantasyland | The Atlantic

By David Frum

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Devin Nunes, the ranking Republican on the Intelligence Committee, opened today with a statement attacking media reporting on the Trump administration. He singled out six stories for attack.

One of them was [retracted](#) by its publisher, CNN—a form of corporate responsibility never seen from a White House notorious for emitting six false statements in a single morning. Another was [an opinion piece](#) in *New York* magazine by Jonathan Chait that did not claim to report news, but instead built known facts into a damning narrative of Donald Trump’s Russia connection. The other four range from the exaggerated to the unverified to the apparently mistaken.

But let’s take a closer look at those errors and what they mean. One of the stories singled out by Nunes was [published by BuzzFeed News](#). That story asserted that Trump had explicitly directed his then-personal attorney, Michael Cohen, to lie to Congress about the Trump Tower Moscow project. Cohen would ultimately testify to Congress that Trump’s direction was *implicit*, not explicit.

The distinction between *explicit* and *implicit* certainly matters. But Nunes wants to use *BuzzFeed*’s error to insinuate that Trump was somehow the victim of a false claim. Nunes is here spreading a bigger untruth than any mistake by any news source.

[...]

Source: [Devin Nunes’s Attack on the Press Is Misguided - The Atlantic](#)