

Nancy Pelosi is a very able politician. One could argue that she had a bigger role in getting Obamacare passed than even President Obama did. She usually keeps her caucus in line and has them vote the way she wishes them to vote. Political opponents should feel a bit of fear if they end up being opposed by Speaker Pelosi. Given her track record, it is surprising how she misplayed her hand in her efforts to impeach President Trump.

Pelosi rushed the articles of impeachment through the House. She did not call witnesses because she was afraid that President Trump would claim that the witnesses should not have to testify because of executive privilege. I believe her rush to impeach was a poor strategy. All a House impeachment indicates is that Trump is charged with offenses that might warrant his removal from office. The Senate will hold a trial and decide if these charges rise to the level of removing the president.

Because the republicans hold a majority of the seats in the Senate, it was always unlikely that

President Trump would be found guilty and removed from office. If the Senate dismisses the charges against Trump, he can claim vindication. He will say that the Senate vote "proves" that he did nothing wrong and that the House impeachment vote was a witch hunt. The democrats will not be able to effectively counter Trump's claims because they will not have the witness testimony that could have been so damaging to Trump.

An impeachment process does not end with a fair trial. It is a political exercise. Senators will not vote against Trump unless it is politically wise to do so. Republican senators will not feel political pressure to vote to remove Trump unless there is damaging witness testimony. The republican senate leadership will resist calling for this testimony because it could hurt a president from their party. The democrats could have called these witnesses when the process was still in the House, although they would have had to go to the courts to compel some of the testimony.

Knowing that a Senate trial would likely dismiss the impeachment charges, Pelosi should not have rushed the House process. She should have realized that Trump would try to stall and resist having damaging witnesses testify. Trump would try to play out the clock so that the impeachment trial could not occur in the Senate until after the next election. Knowing this, Pelosi should not have worried about getting the articles of impeachment to the Senate in time for action before the election.

Instead, Pelosi should have used all of the time until the next election doing the impeachment investigation in the House. She could have brought in a steady stream of witnesses that were not blocked by executive privilege and then other witnesses as the courts forced testimony.

This strategy would allow Pelosi to control the narrative going into the next election. She could have used witness testimony in the House to move the public's opinion. If she was successful, she would not have needed to go to the Senate. The American public would decide against reelecting Trump.

Pelosi would have been better served by realizing she needed to convince the voters that

Trump needed to be removed. Getting articles of impeachment to the Senate without convincing voters that Trump should be removed will probably be a losing strategy.