

Partial transcript of *Tucker Carlson Tonight* from January 13, 2017

The following partial transcript of Fox News' *Tucker Carlson Tonight* from January 13, 2017, is via LexisNexis.

CARLSON: Up next, how the cold war comeback so soon in Washington as 1985 again. Russia expert Stephen Cohen says there is a reason so many in D.C. are trying to prevent President Trump from making a deal with Vladimir Putin. He joins us next to explain why exactly.

CARLSON: Well, no matter how many times they get ridiculed for it, Hollywood celebrities keep making excruciating videos telling the rest of Americans what to think particularly about Donald Trump. It's self-awareness not their strong suit. Well, this time the celebrity Justice League gathered to sing the song, "I Will Survive," to show their continued defiance towards the incoming administration.

Here's a clip if you can stand it.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Did you think I'd crumble --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did you think I'd lay down and die --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No, no, not I --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I will survive.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Oh, as long as I know how to love, I know I stay alive.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I've got all my life to live.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And I've got all my love to give.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And I will survive.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I will survive.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hey, hey.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I will survive!

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CARLSON: So good, I'd never want that to end.

(LAUGHTER)

Well, oddly, I will survive of course is about a woman escaping an ex-boyfriend. I think this video was made about the wrong president. We will ask. Well, the Washington establishment and its media lackeys remain obsessed with Russian hacking and its

alleged influence to November's elections. Some have even stooped to pushing an unverified document, dossier, claiming Trump has been compromised by Russian intelligence.

Russia is the biggest bogeyman that's been in years, but at the same time few people have been talking about its actual thinking, what are Russia's motives, if any? What could they gain or lose by working with the Trump administration?

In other words, nobody talking about it knows anything about Russia. Stephen Cohen does. He is a contributing editor at "The Nation" and the professor emeritus of Russian studies at NYU. He used teach at Princeton. (INAUDIBLE) are long. He joins us now.

Professor, thanks for coming on.

STEPHEN COHEN, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, THE NATION: So, what could possibly be on your mind tonight? Whether or not we're actually going to survive?

CARLSON: Well, there is this amazing moment and I'm sure you saw it during the Tillerson -- Rex Tillerson hearings in the Senate. When Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, essentially demanded that Tillerson denounce Vladimir Putin as a war criminal. Now, I don't know -- I'll be candid with you, I don't know much about Vladimir Putin's war record and perhaps he is war criminal. I don't know. But I was so struck by Rubio's insistence that Tillerson concede that he was.

Would America gain something, do you think, from an incoming Secretary of State calling the Russian head of state a war criminal?

COHEN: No, because it would end what president-elect Trump says he wants to do. And that's create a new policy toward Russia that we use to call they taunt (ph), cooperation.

CARLSON: Yes.

COHEN: So, we got a very simple decision in front of us. Perhaps the worst relationship with Russia in our time perils anywhere from the Baltic to Ukraine to Syria to guys running around as you and I talk tonight, Tucker, terrorists looking for radioactive material to make bombs and if they set them off, we won't be able to inhabit those places for a generation.

Trump seems to understand this. He seems to understand that we can't deal with these problems without Russian cooperation. And meanwhile, you get in this country, already, a bloodied war against Trump hardly because he wants to do this. Did I hear Representative Lewis saying on your broadcasts a few minutes ago that he doesn't recognize Trump as a legitimate president?

CARLSON: That's right.

COHEN: Well if that's the case then what about the leaders of the states Trump has to deal with around the world? Are they supposed to regard Trump as an illegitimate president?

CARLSON: Well Trump will have control of our nuclear arsenal so I think they will take them seriously because they have no choice. But I'm wondering about the motive here.

Obviously some of it is to tarnish Trump before he takes office. But the antipathy toward Russia seems real from a lot of the ideologues in process (ph) and I think probably Senator Rubio is one of them.

And I'm not degrading. I'm just trying to understand it. Why? Why are they so anti-Russia? With all the threats we face, why Russia?

COHEN: Well, in a word, and again let me take the political Fifth Amendment. I'm not a partisan of Trump. I'm not a partisan of Putin. I'm a partisan of American national security. They don't know the dangers. They don't know Putin's real role in the world. He is far from the greatest threat to America. Think back. Well, you probably weren't born then, but you know the history. Remember what Ronald Reagan did. He had called. He had risen to power. He had embraced the idea that the Soviet Union was an evil empire. Then in 1985, the reasons -- good reasons of his own -- he decided he wanted to do a grand daytime with the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev. And you don't remember but I will tell you that his own party, the Republican Party savaged him, said he was betraying the cause.

CARLSON: I remember.

COHEN: They couldn't attack his character as they do Trump. But can you imagine -- can you imagine if Reagan had been so slurred (ph) in the American press? So, I think Reagan is actually the model for Trump. At that time, it with the evil empire. Today, Putin is the Darth Vader of the east. It isn't true.

I mean, the threat that Putin represents to the United States, I would rank probably wouldn't make the top five. But they're testifying in Congress that it's number one --

CARLSON: Yes.

COHEN: And this is a threat to our own national security. Look --

CARLSON: They seem that way. I'm sorry, we're out of time but I just want to affirm as a non-Russian expert, the way you're saying comports with common sense. It does seem like hysteria has seized D.C.

COHEN: And we're in danger as a result.

CARLSON: It seems that way. Professor Cohen, thank you so much for joining us. Good to see you.

Up next, two men are trying to restore the vote to 1.7 million ex-felons in the state of Florida. If they succeed, it could cause a seismic shift in national politics. There joining us in a minute to explain why we need to do it. Stay tuned.