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LETTERS

Putin hooks Trump

Robert F. Lyons, *Kennebunk*

At [the 2007 "Lobster Summit" in Kennebunkport](#), Russian President Vladimir Putin met for two days with President George W. Bush to try to reverse the downward slide in the administration's relationship with Moscow. Putin enjoyed a Maine lobster at the Bush family's seaside compound. While on a fishing trip, Putin was the only one to catch anything. "It's a fine catch," Bush said. Eleven years later, it is Putin in Helsinki who can [say of President Donald Trump](#): "He is a fine catch."

Trump on Monday [refused to say whether he believes the U.S. intelligence agencies' assessment that Russia interfered with our 2016 elections](#). Maine's congressional delegation has denounced his statement. Former CIA Director John Brennan called Trump's performance "nothing short of treasonous."

The president has publicly embraced our documented enemy and [insults our allies](#). Vigorous civic action is required of all citizens to protect our democracy. To adapt the words of a dissenter during the Third Reich: "First they came for the immigrants, but I was not an immigrant so I did not speak out. Then they came for the Muslims and Mexicans, but I was neither, so I did not speak out. Then they came to separate the women and children refugees, but I was neither so I did not speak out. And when they came for the judges and journalists, there was no one left to speak out for me."

Citizens can do terrible things by doing nothing at all. Think November elections.

PHOTOS [not in newspaper]

1. Russian Pres. Vladimir Putin catches fish with President George W. Bush, Kennebunkport, Maine July 2, 2007 **Bush: "It's a great catch."**



2. Russian Pres. Putin & U.S. President Trump, Helsinki, Finland July 16, 2018 **Putin on Trump: "He's a great catch!"**

