Inside the FBI, fears of lasting damage

After GOP memo’s release, agency feels under siege

BY DEVLIN BARRETT and MATT ANZUONI Minneapolis Star Tribune

WASHINGTON — In the 99 years of the FBI’s existence, it has repeatedly come under fire for abuses of power, abuses of power, and for abuses of power. But when its leader is under fire for abuses of power, the FBI is used to intense criticism.

What is so unusual about the current moment, say current or former law enforcement officials, is the source of the attack.

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Republican critics charge that the FBI has overstepped its authority into possible coordination between the Trump campaign and its agents for the Russian government was finally matched by the political pressure of FBI officials — and President Donald Trump, who reminded Saturday that the release of a memo on the bureau felt under siege.

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