

there, millions upon millions of dark money, secret money. It could land on any of us. Given what I have been saying about the President, it may land on me. Fine, we will deal with that.

This is a problem. It is a problem for America when that kind of money buys elections, buys candidates, buys Members of Congress and more.

Citizens United and all the rest needs to go. We need to know who is financing me, financing my colleagues here. We need to be able to report that so that the people can make up their minds what they want to do.

I will give you one example, and then I think I have said enough for the night. There was an election in California a few years ago that had Pacific Gas and Electric, one of the major corporations, utilities—well, the largest in the Nation, trying to carve a special favor for itself, eliminating all competition. They got it on the ballot. They collected signatures, got it on the ballot.

They were required, under California law, to disclose where the money came from in support of their campaign and all of the ads, all the television, all the written mailers and so forth paid for by PG&E.

The opposition to this, which was basic citizen groups, said that this is wrong. There were editorials written. Maybe \$20,000, \$30,000 was spent opposing PG&E's effort. It went down 2-1 for one simple reason: PG&E was required to disclose that they were paying for the ads, and people go, whoa, whoa, wait a minute. So disclosure works.

Unfortunately, Citizens United and a couple of other decisions have made it impossible for the American people to know who is financing Members of Congress, Senate, President, so forth.

□ 2030

So, here we are. A better deal for the people, healthcare, infrastructure, jobs, wages, corruption. You are going to hear a lot about this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is joining me this evening.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Mr. GARAMENDI, for yielding.

I welcome Congressman GARAMENDI back. Wouldn't I know he would be on the floor the very first moments we get back here. How fortunate the citizens of California are to have elected him.

I am very proud to stand with the gentleman this evening for A Better Deal for the American people. And because it has been Labor Day week and we are celebrating Labor Day this week, I thought it important to link my remarks to his, and I will be very brief.

As we celebrated Labor Day this week, we recall that it actually was declared Labor Day by a Republican president back in the 1890s. So this is an historic moment by any measure, but this past weekend, the President and Republican congressional leaders

in this chamber chose to criticize, to vilify labor unions and their leaders, while the Republicans have failed to deliver on a living wage for America's workers.

Wages are stuck, while many in the top 1 percent get very handsome bonuses and pay increases. And the Trump administration is actually increasing, and the record shows, job outsourcing, shipping out our jobs, by doling out, get ready for this, \$50 billion in new Federal contracts to companies that continue to close down factories here and move them abroad.

In fact, the President's trade antics can't hide the fact that with China—I remember how China feted him—can't hide the fact that China is drowning us in imports and we can't move an equal amount into that vast marketplace.

The President actually tried to say he is renegotiating NAFTA, but it is funny that in that proposed agreement, he does end runs around the labor standards and living wage issues.

More than 133,000 Americans have a certified trade-related job loss since this President took office, 133,000 people, and only 4 percent of the workers Congressman GARAMENDI talked about will receive an increase from the GOP's big tax giveaway to the top 1 percent.

So for most Americans, real wages are falling and the middle class is a dream for tens of millions of people who can't seem to get there. Any pay raise people have earned is, in fact, now being eaten up, and I heard this at my meetings all across the district, as their costs of healthcare go up, the cost of medicine goes up, the cost of education for their family goes up.

President Trump on Labor Day weekend announced that he is going to cancel pay raises for 2 million Federal workers, people who work in Homeland Security, people in our air control towers, people who are caring for the sick, people who are ministering to our veterans. How about that: cancel any cost of living.

The pay increase is actually a cost-of-living increase. And for those that work in the capital city areas across our country, we know how expensive it is to live in these places.

Americans' labor history shaped the American economic dream and grew the middle class, which is what you and I want to get back to. And following our 124th national Labor Day, the power and worth of hard work is worth fighting for, it is an earned status, and we must never diminish the value of hard work or, in fact, we will lose its value completely.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman GARAMENDI for being here tonight. Americans deserve a Congress and a President that gives them A Better Deal and stands up for the true value of hard work for the people, always for the people, especially when Labor Day has been celebrated for the 124th time in our Nation's history, over a century and nearly a quarter.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so very much.

124 Labor Days for the working men and women of America. We should keep that in mind, and certainly I know the gentlewoman will and I, and I am sure my colleagues, at least on the Democratic side of the aisle, will also.

Mr. Speaker, I want to end once again with FDR:

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MICHAEL NGUYEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, we gather here this evening to demand the immediate release of Michael Nguyen, an American citizen and Orange County resident, who has been detained by the Vietnamese government for nearly 2 months without cause.

Michael, a loving husband and father of four, owns a small printing business and is actively involved in his community and church. He is a law-abiding citizen with no criminal record in the United States.

Michael traveled to Vietnam on June 27, 2018, to visit family and friends. When he did not return home on July 16 as planned, his family grew worried and contacted my office.

They learned through social media Michael had been imprisoned by the Vietnamese government. On July 31, the State Department was able to confirm Michael's detainment.

We now know he has been imprisoned for allegedly violating Article 109 of the Vietnamese criminal code, activities against the government.

Article 109 is an arbitrary and vague charge the Vietnamese government often uses to justify baseless arrests. Michael could be held for months without formal charges as the Vietnamese government investigates.

During this time, Michael will be denied access to an attorney or direct communication with his family. State Department officials are only allowed to visit Michael once a month.

The Vietnamese government has refused repeated requests to provide my

office with evidence to substantiate Michael's arrest. In a perversion of justice, the Vietnamese legal system allows individuals like Michael to be arrested and languish in prison before its government even begins an investigation or collects evidence.

Michael's detainment is only the most recent example of Vietnam's troubling human rights record and lack of a transparent legal system.

Earlier this year, the Vietnamese government unjustly detained William Nguyen, an American citizen of no relation to Michael.

I am deeply concerned for Michael's safety and well-being and I demand his immediate release.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Nguyen family's strength during this trying time. I am inspired by their love for Michael and determination to bring him home.

Michael's wife, Helen, is a nurse, who works long hours with many emergency on-call days. Michael's flexibility as a small business owner allows him to be the primary caregiver for their four young daughters.

His absence is devastating the entire Nguyen family. This American family should not have to spend one more day worrying and wondering when Michael will return home.

Michael's story has touched many people. Several of my colleagues who have heard of Michael's detainment have joined my fight to secure his release. I am grateful for their support and their willingness to join tonight's Special Order.

We will not stop until Michael is returned home safely, and will continue to put ongoing, relentless pressure on the Vietnamese government. I am committed to bringing Michael home so he may be reunited with his family, and will stop at nothing to make this happen.

Mr. Speaker, now it is my privilege to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), a fellow Orange County resident and esteemed chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I yield to Congressman ROYCE, representing the 39th District of California.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the gentlewoman from California for yielding to me. And I do want to commend my colleague, MIMI WALTERS, for organizing this Special Order. I want to commend her for her tireless effort here for the release of her constituent by the name of Michael Nguyen, someone whose family I happen to know. I rise today to request that the government of Vietnam release an American citizen.

If I could just share with you my observations about this situation. We are really speaking out on behalf of a U.S. citizen from Orange, California, who was detained, as the Congresswoman shared with you, on July 7. And what I wanted to share with you is he was touring Vietnam and visiting elderly

relatives. I think it is a very commendable thing that he does, that he stays in touch, he tries to do this once a year, to see his elderly relatives in Vietnam.

We have been informed that he is under investigation for engaging in activity against the People's government, which in this case is a spurious charge that the Vietnamese government is using to justify an arbitrary detention of a U.S. citizen.

Now, this is an individual who is deeply missed by his wife and four daughters, the youngest of whom is only 8 years old. Michael's family has seen their entire lives turned upside down because of this senseless ordeal.

Now, as I shared with you, I know the family, I know his wife, Helen, who works in healthcare in Orange County, and I can tell you what she and the daughters would tell you: This fellow is a loving husband, a doting father. The kids really enjoy his sense of humor. He is the guy that gets up, and because of his schedule as a small businessman, he is able to make breakfast for the girls every morning. He enjoys taking them to school, to the dance classes, to the sports practices.

As school begins again back here in the United States, it is usually a time of excitement, but also nervousness, for young students. So our hearts especially go out to his four daughters, who are being forced to navigate the new school year without their father.

While his family suffers without him at home, Michael remains detained in a Vietnamese prison. While in detention, he is provided only one meal a day and is allowed to buy a bowl of soup extra a day from the canteen. Michael is 54 years old. He cannot and should not be subjected to such treatment.

It is really imperative that we speak out, because Michael could be detained for months on end. Some prisoners are held for years on these bogus charges.

This situation is deplorable. Michael's case is an egregious example of Vietnam's troubling history of arbitrary arrest. My fear for Michael's safety is the same fear that you have already heard Congresswoman MIMI WALTERS share with you. We do fear for his safety. We want him returned to his family here in the United States.

The United States has a growing relationship with Vietnam, particularly in security and in the trade arenas. However, human rights remain a core value to us here in the United States, and we cannot separate rights, those rights, from our own ongoing engagement with the Vietnamese government. If you abuse our citizens, there will be consequences.

All levels of the U.S. government should make every effort to ensure Michael returns safely to his family without delay.

So here again is my request: Just allow this citizen to return back to his family here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate, again, Congresswoman MIMI WALTERS for organizing this Special Order today.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I now introduce my friend from Orange County who serves on both the Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Committees. I yield to the gentleman from California, Congressman LOU CORREA, representing California's 46th Congressional District.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman WALTERS for bringing this most important issue to the attention of the American public.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as well to address the issue of Mr. Michael Phuong Nguyen, an American citizen and a resident of Orange County, who is currently being detained by the Vietnamese government.

As Representative ROYCE just said, we seem to be enjoying a stronger, closer relationship with Vietnam on trade and security. Then we have this contradiction, a contradiction that an American citizen is being detained.

On July 7, Michael Phuong Nguyen was touring Vietnam, visiting relatives, and he was arrested. It has been almost 2 months. The charge is penal code 109, which is activity against the People's government, yet there are no facts that have been presented, no evidence. He is being held. He has been arrested with no evidence being presented.

□ 2045

His wife and his family, they are also personal friends of mine. I know this family. They are strong members of our community. That is why I don't understand how Michael could have been arrested in Vietnam.

I ask the Government of Vietnam to please release Michael. Please release him back to his family and to his country, the United States of America.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to welcome Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) of California's 47th Congressional District.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, first, I, too, would like to thank my colleague, Representative WALTERS, for yielding and for holding this Special Order. I would also like to thank Representatives CORREA, ROYCE, LAMALFA, and GREEN for joining us.

Well, we are here once again, and I am outraged. We are speaking on behalf of another American citizen, and that is really important, an American citizen who was arbitrarily detained. He was imprisoned on vague allegations by the Communist Government of Vietnam.

Let's understand who we are talking about, as has been pointed out.

Michael Nguyen is a father of four daughters. He was on a trip to Vietnam with his family—really, with his friends, not so much his family but friends. When he didn't return home at

the end of the trip, his family frantically contacted officials.

Let's see what happened.

He was taken off a bus, as he was traveling from the city of Da Nang to Saigon, by public security officials. He was then detained, imprisoned, and neither his family, and what is also important, nor the United States Government were notified until after 10 days after he was arrested.

As part of an agreement between the Government of Vietnam and the United States, the Vietnamese Government must notify the United States within 96 hours if they have arrested an American citizen, which they have failed to do.

Since then, we have learned very little about why Michael was detained. The government claims, the Vietnamese Government, that he posted on Facebook a plot to overthrow the government, but they have not shown us any evidence that this occurred.

I have also met with Michael's family and his wife, Helen, and they are stunned. They are hurt. They are confused. They are angry. How could this happen to an American citizen who was just visiting Vietnam?

As was pointed out, just a few months ago, another American visiting this country was wrongly detained and coerced into confessing his crime for merely engaging in a peaceful protest. And that, as we have heard, was William Nguyen. He was beaten. He was placed in jail. He has been finally released and returned to America because the charges against him were also bogus.

In part, he was released because a significant number of Members of Congress stood up and championed his cause. And, again, I thank Congresswoman WALTERS for leading that charge. That is exactly why we are here in Congress: to defend the rights of American citizens.

Michael is yet another victim of Vietnam's egregious human rights violations. As was pointed out, we have engaged in economic development with Vietnam. We have a closer relationship economically with Vietnam, but they have consistently violated human rights of the citizens of Vietnam or anyone who speaks out, anyone who engages in religious freedom. They are an oppressive, prosecutorial society that does not allow any dissent.

As one of the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, I joined with my colleagues of the caucus in support of the Vietnam Human Rights Act, which invokes sanctions per the Magnitsky Act, which not only imposes financial and travel restrictions for human rights abusers, but it also calls upon the Vietnamese Government to release those political prisoners and to stop arresting citizens who just champion human rights, freedom, and democracy.

This bill that we are pushing through Congress—and this will push us further toward accomplishing this goal—would

also make the sale of military equipment or services to Vietnam conditional on improvement in human rights, and this is one of the classic examples of the lack of human rights that goes on.

So I call upon the Government of Vietnam to quickly close this case and return Michael Nguyen to his family. It is unconscionable that any American of Vietnamese descent or any American who criticizes the Vietnamese Government—I am not saying that Michael did, but anybody who speaks out, anyone—must fear that they are going to be arrested.

If these incidents continue to occur, this is going to lead to a serious reevaluation of our economic and diplomatic relationships with Vietnam. I call upon the government to do the right thing.

Michael was just visiting. He has done nothing wrong. Please release Michael Nguyen back to the United States.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, my next colleague is an active member on the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees.

I yield to the gentleman from California, Congressman DOUG LAMALFA, representing California's First Congressional District.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mrs. WALTERS from southern California, for leading the charge tonight on yet another example of a United States citizen being detained or arrested falsely.

At this point, 59 days into the process, no actual charge has been brought against Michael Nguyen. Is this justice or is this some kind of game they are playing with our citizens that isn't appreciated by our country and, certainly as my colleague, Mr. LOWENTHAL, was mentioning just a minute ago, that is something that, if it continues to happen, we have to continue to reevaluate our relationship with Vietnam?

Now, obviously, we went through some very difficult times in the 1960s and 1970s, but we have been building on that for a long time. We want to build on that. We want to have those good relationships and good trade and all of the opportunities that make our country, as well as theirs, stronger with positive economics. But that is very difficult when you have this kind of action going on against a United States citizen where, in this country, we enjoy due process; we foster due process; we encourage that.

And so for those whom we trade with, those whom we have partnerships with, those whom we want to have relationships with, we want to not only encourage that, but demand that, for the way our citizens are treated.

In California, we have a very strong population of Vietnamese immigrants and people from the region who have immigrated to our State, including in my own district, who have been very enterprising and become part of the

community in the few decades they have been here now. Why would we not want to continue to battle for these citizens if they are going to travel back to Vietnam for whatever purpose: tourism, business, or seeing relatives that maybe didn't come over to the United States?

So we are here tonight to demand the release of Michael Nguyen as a citizen of the United States and as a citizen of California.

Michael's family has been wondering for a long time what is going on with their loved one. It has taken weeks to find out through some kind of update as to what Michael's status is.

So we strongly, joining in with our bipartisan coalition of Members here tonight, demand General Secretary Trong and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam respect the rights of our citizens and consider again the consequences that might come should this illegal imprisonment continue or there be more like it in the future.

So we will continue to work together with Congresswoman WALTERS and our Secretary Pompeo to ensure that Michael is returned to his family as soon as possible because, again, he hasn't even been charged with anything other than being a U.S. citizen in Vietnam. It is high time that he has his rights restored and not have this be harmful to him, his family, and our relationships.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, my next colleague proudly represents Michael Nguyen's family members who live in the Houston area.

I now yield to Congressman AL GREEN of Texas, who represents the Ninth Congressional District.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight as a proud American. I am proud of the country's due process laws.

In this country, you don't go to jail indefinitely. In this country, you don't just get picked up. In this country, you are entitled to have a lawyer upon realizing that you are being charged. I am proud to be an American.

Tonight, I rise on a mission of mercy, understanding that one of our own, an American citizen, is being detained without charges, no lawyer, and little knowledge of what has happened to him.

Imagine, if you will, Mr. Speaker, a wife anticipating her husband's arrival. He is supposed to arrive at the airport with a friend on July 16. She finds out that her husband is not on the plane. She contacts the airline. They indicate that he was not among those to be on the plane.

She then panics, as anyone would, and she uses every means necessary to try to ascertain what has happened to her husband. She finds out by way of social media that, on or about July 6, he was detained and that that detention is something that she can get very little information about.

She is upset. She and her children are upset. They don't know what has happened to this husband, this father. So

they reach out to their congressional Representative—who has done an outstanding job, I might add. Congresswoman WALTERS immediately did that which is necessary to protect an American citizen. She contacted the necessary authorities, contacted the Secretary of State, contacted the Ambassador, wanted to know what his condition was, and wanted to know if he was in good health. She found out that he is okay, but has not been charged.

Mr. Speaker, we, in this country, understand that when one of us is being detained unjustly, every one of us has a responsibility to do what we can to get that person released. Any American being held is something that every American is concerned about.

Every Member of this House will take the position, I am confident, that an American being detained unjustly should be released immediately.

So I rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, on a mission of mercy asking the Government of Vietnam to release this American citizen. He has not been charged. He has no lawyer. He has friends and family who are waiting for his return.

He was there as a visitor seeing friends. This is something that he has done on previous occasions. I ask that he be released so that he may be returned to his family.

In this country, we protect our own. He is one of us, and we want him back. And we want him back right away.

I commend all of my colleagues for what they have said tonight, and we will shine additional light on this issue. We will not rest until he comes home where he belongs.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, when I told Michael's family I would be hosting this Special Order, I asked if there was any message they wanted me to share on their behalf. I would now like to read a personal statement from the family.

□ 2100

Michael Phuong Nguyen has been unlawfully detained for over 60 days. He longs for the comfort of his family profoundly and deserves immediate attention to return to the United States.

Michael's wife and four children urgently and desperately appeal to all Members of Congress, right now, to take actions to bring Michael Nguyen back home to his family where he belongs. All four girls are experiencing heartfelt anxiety, affecting their school and emotional well-being. He plays a crucial role in his four daughter's livelihood and needs to be where his heart belongs, with his family.

Our prayers are with Michael Nguyen's family, and we want them to know we will do everything in our power to bring him home.

Again, I thank my colleagues for joining me this evening to support my constituent Michael Nguyen. We will not stop working until Michael is released and returned safely to his family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Congresswoman MIMI WALTERS, for her special order. It is a reminder again that Vietnam has not lived up to the agreement they made in Paris to end the Vietnam war.

They promised they would turn over remains. They promised they would give lists of our POWs and MIAs. They lied. They didn't do that. They still have that information.

In fact, there was one year I agreed with the national Chamber of Commerce's position on most everything, but I disagreed on a trade agreement with Vietnam because I could not vote to give some special deal to people who will not honor their agreements that lie about Americans dead and who were prisoners of war and missing in action and remains of which they know and have never disclosed.

This is one more reminder that one thing we can do in this House is show courage and say we are not dealing with countries, no special deals at all, with countries that harm Americans. We need to protect our own.

I am so glad that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are calling attention to that fact, led by Congresswoman WALTERS. It is important to remember.

I hope and pray that we will do the right thing here in the House. I know the President has a heart for getting Americans back when they have been improperly detained, or, in some cases, when they have been properly detained, but especially if they are being mistreated. Vietnam needs to wake up. And this House, the Senate, and the President need to make abundantly clear to Vietnam that, economically, we are going to come after you. You better let our people go.

I also want to address a matter tonight. Having been a former judge, when I hear courageous judges stand up for the Constitution, or I read opinions wherein courageous, intelligent judges have taken a stand for the Constitution, it warms my heart. It inspires and encourages me.

I have heard many friends in the media who have given accolades to a Virginia Federal judge named T.S. Ellis—not T.S. Eliot, but T.S. Ellis—who is the judge who is handling the case involving Paul Manafort.

This is from a May 4 article by Jeff Mordock. It says: "A Virginia Federal judge Friday blasted prosecutors from the Office of Special Counsel Robert Mueller, demanding to know how decade-old bank and tax fraud allegations against former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort"—I think he was chair for about 100 days—"could relate to Russian election interference," which, of course, is 2016.

"'You don't really care about Mr. Manafort's bank fraud,' District Judge T.S. Ellis said during a morning hearing. Judge Ellis said prosecutors were interested in pressuring Mr. Manafort because he could provide information that would lead to President Donald Trump's 'prosecution or impeachment.'"

"At times, Judge Ellis appeared frustrated and even lost his temper with attorneys from Mr. Mueller's team. He grilled them on how allegations against Mr. Manafort for activities"—the copy I have ends there, but it says: "How does bank fraud in 2005 or 2006 have anything to do with coordination with the Russian Government?" Judge Ellis said. "What is really going on, it seems to me, is that this indictment is to put pressure on Mr. Manafort, but in and of itself has nothing to do with your appointment."

"Judge Ellis appeared to agree with the defense, but did not issue an immediate decision. He repeatedly barraged prosecutors about their authority to pursue decade-old charges against Mr. Manafort. At one point, Judge Ellis asked how the Manafort case differed from the FBI raid on President Trump's attorney Michael Cohen. The Cohen matter was referred by Mueller's team to prosecutors with the Southern District of New York for investigation and possible prosecution. In contrast, the Manafort case is being handled directly by Mr. Mueller's officer.

"He then appeared to guess the prosecutor's answer, saying the Cohen investigation did not 'further our core effort to get Trump.'"

"Later, Judge Ellis summarized prosecutor Michael Dreeben's argument as, 'We said what this investigation was about, but we are not bound by it, and we were lying.' He then looked at Mr. Dreeben and said, 'C'mon man,' referencing a catchphrase from ESPN's NFL pregame show."

Further down: "At issue in the memo is the definition of 'arise.' The order gives the special counsel the authority to investigate any matters that 'may arise directly from the investigation.' But prosecutors admitted Friday that the Manafort probe had been ongoing by the Department of Justice before Mr. Mueller was appointed special counsel. Mr. Dreeben said the charges against Mr. Manafort came because they had to 'follow the money' to discover Mr. Manafort's financial records and ties to Russia through his lobbying work in the Ukraine. The comments provoked a sharp rebuke from Judge Ellis. 'It didn't lead to that,' he said of the Manafort charges and Russia probe. 'It was given to you by the Department of Justice.'"

Well, that sounds like a courageous judge, Judge T.S. Ellis. It sounds like a judge who calls them as he sees them. But, as the saying goes, where the rubber meets the road, his courage, his constitutional conviction, took a back seat to convenience.

So he got accolades for calling out the Mueller investigation for exactly