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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 6, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID G. VALADAO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

HE-SAID/HE-SAID DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I have been thinking about all the criminal investigations pointing directly at the President and his associates and the fact that, for many Americans, this has become a he-said/he-said debate.

On the one hand, you have the President saying that this is all a witch hunt: Yes, I fired Comey and ordered to derail the investigation; yes, I knew about and helped conceal the Russia

meeting; and, yes, I knew about the payments to keep people quiet.

Then there is Robert Mueller, the former FBI Director, who really hasn't said a word this whole time, but his efficient, productive, and successful investigations keep rolling right along. I guess he lets his indictments do his talking.

So in this battle of he-said/he-said, who would the oddsmakers pick? If you were a betting man or woman, a Vegas oddsmaker, or just an armchair quarterback, who would you go with?

On the one hand, we have a conservative Republican who was the second longest serving FBI Director. Only Hoover served longer. On the other hand, we have the host of a reality TV show with no political or government or military or law enforcement experience whatsoever.

Hmm, let's continue.

On the one hand, we have a Vietnam veteran with a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. Director Mueller joined the Marines as a volunteer at the height of the Vietnam war after his high school teammate was killed in action. Mueller enlisted to honor his friend and out of a sense of duty, honor, and obligation to put oneself behind one's country as a matter of honor.

On the other hand, we have the President, who avoided military service by claiming he had bone spurs in his foot, despite ample evidence that was a lie, a complete fiction made up to serve what? His own personal interests above those of the Nation at time of war.

According to what I have read, Director Mueller was a good student at Princeton, and after earning his bachelor's and master's and after serving in Vietnam with distinction, he studied law at the University of Virginia, where he served on the Law Review, a prestigious accomplishment at any law school, let alone one of the best.

The President went to business school and inherited millions of dollars

and started a real estate business because his dad gave him the money.

Director Mueller is a courtroom expert and veteran law enforcement leader. Think about this: He was a private litigator, a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office, and started serving at the Justice Department under Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, who was Ronald Reagan's and George H.W. Bush's Attorney General.

To be sure, the President has a great deal of courtroom experience, too, but that is mostly related to depositions, civil lawsuits, and criminal cases when he sues people or threatens to sue them.

On a more personal note, Director Mueller's service as FBI Director, as you may remember, was delayed at one point because he was fighting prostate cancer, which he beat.

He is a man of integrity who married his high school sweetheart in 1966, and to the best of everyone's knowledge, it is the only marriage of either one of them.

The President, well, I am running out of time, so I won't be able to discuss his long list of marriages and affairs, which have all become quite public.

Finally, while the President characterizes the Mueller investigation as the most expensive witch hunt in history, I bet the oddsmakers would give a lot of weight to the following facts: The President's campaign chairman has been convicted; his National Security Advisor resigned and pleaded guilty; his personal attorney and long-time fixer in New York pleaded guilty on multiple counts; and people from inside The Trump Organization and inside the campaign and the White House are cooperating with prosecutors as we speak. And this was all despite the President's efforts and with the full cooperation of Republicans in Congress to prevent the truth from coming out.

There are a lot of people in this body who are staking their careers on the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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President and his influence over their voters in their States or their congressional districts. Okay. You are betting on a guy who is up tweeting at 3 a.m. in the morning.

Look, I am going to bet—when I look at the main protagonist in this legal drama, I will put my money on the law enforcement veteran who, at 3 a.m. in the morning, is working on who he is going to indict next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING UGA'S COLLEGE OF PHARMACY DEAN SVEIN OIE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Georgia's College of Pharmacy's dean, Svein Oie, who stepped down as dean on July 31 after 18 years.

Dean Oie's tenure led to great strides in the reach and capabilities of UGA's College of Pharmacy. Also my alma mater, Dean Oie increased the college's class size, added satellite campuses across the State, began training residents, and created the Center for Drug Discovery to develop new drugs to combat diseases that are, so far, incurable.

Although Dean Oie is stepping down as dean of the college, I am glad that he is going to continue with his teaching profession. With a shortage of healthcare professionals in the United States, his ability to train these individuals is more important than ever.

Thank you, Dean Oie, for your service to the University of Georgia, the field of pharmacy, and healthcare overall in the State of Georgia.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR BILL LIGON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Pastor William T. Ligon, who is retiring from the ministry after 60 years.

Pastor Ligon's dedication to the Word of God is unparalleled, taking him not only throughout the First Congressional District of Georgia, but across the globe. In the early part of his career, Pastor Ligon served as a Southern Baptist missionary in Barcelona and Valencia, Spain, where he was a professor in the Spanish Baptist Theological Seminary.

When he returned to Georgia, he founded the Christian Renewal Church in Brunswick. A testament to his abilities, Pastor Ligon's new church grew rapidly and now includes seven congregations in three different States. He has been the pastor of the Brunswick location for the past 44 years.

However, much of this would not be possible without Pastor Ligon's wife, Mrs. Dorothy Jean Ligon, whom he has been married to for 60 years.

Thank you, Pastor Ligon, for the wonderful work you have been doing in Georgia and across the world.

RECOGNIZING EDGAR M. EDWARDS, SR.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Edgar M. Edwards, Sr., who passed away on August 1 at the age of 92.

Known as Mr. Ed to those around him, he will be remembered for his unending passion to give all Georgia students the best possible education.

Mr. Ed began teaching at the Bradwell Institute in Hinesville in 1950, beginning a career that took him through many different perspectives in educating students. He quickly rose from teacher to principal at Bradwell Institute and was rapidly elected superintendent of the Liberty County School system, where he earned the Georgia Superintendent of the Year Award.

Even when he retired from direct involvement with students, Mr. Ed began work for an architecture company to build numerous schools throughout the State of Georgia until he was 90 years old.

Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Ed had perfect attendance for 38 straight years at Bradwell football games.

I truly believe that Mr. Ed's passion and energy to impact the lives of all students who step foot into the Liberty County School system is a model we can all learn from.

RECOGNIZING BOB WARNOCK

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bob Warnock on both his 40-year anniversary practicing as a licensed pharmacist and his retirement from the field.

Mr. Warnock is a talented pharmacist who made an impact not only on countless patients, but also numerous aspiring pharmacists. He once said to future pharmacists not to "accept a diminished role. Make sure every day when you go home you can say the life of at least one patient is better because of your efforts."

I have firsthand experience with Mr. Warnock's drive to improve the lives of those around him, as he inspired me to do the same. He was one of the first people to help me when I was trying to start my small pharmacy business, and he remains a lifelong friend to this day.

Now Mr. Warnock oversees PruittHealth's entire pharmacy business, employing thousands of workers and operating in multiple States, a testament to hard work and a compassion for others. I am proud to know Bob Warnock, and I know his expertise and kindheartedness will be missed in the world of pharmacy.

IMPEACHMENT IS THE SOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I am always proud to stand in the well. It is an honor to have the preeminent privilege to speak to the Nation from this point, from this very place in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of the American public, the American people, an article that was printed in The New York Times yesterday. It is styled: "I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration."

I cannot vouch for this article, but there is one passage that I can speak of with some degree of credibility. It reads: "... we believe our first duty is to our country. . . ."

Regardless as to what else in this article may or may not be true, this is true: Our country should come first.

I love my country, and I stand here today because I do.

It goes on to say: "and the President continues to act in a manner that is detrimental to the health of our Republic."

This is true. I think there is little debate about some aspects of the things that the President has done that are detrimental to the health of the Republic.

We know that it was detrimental to the health of the Republic for the President to say there were some nice people among the racists and bigots in Charlottesville where a person lost her life.

We know that it is detrimental to the Republic for the President to institute a policy that separates babies from their mothers and not find a way, to this day, to put them back together. We know that that is detrimental to the Republic.

But what we also know is that there are great talking points about what the President has done, great talking points about how he is harming society, great talking points about how he is unfit to be President—great talking points.

But here is the question: Where are the action items?

It is not enough to have great talking points. I hear them all the time, if you will, on various shows on television. You hear people talking about how this is not American; this is un-American—great talking points.

But at some point, we have to go from talking points to action items. At some point, we have to deal with the problem. It is not enough to identify it. We have got to also identify the solution.

There is a solution to an unfit President. I thank God for giving me this opportunity to be in Congress, and I will not let my record show that I was here, and when there was a scourge, if you will, on the country by virtue of the way the President is behaving, I will not let my record show that I didn't take advantage of this opportunity to stand in the well and denounce what this President has done.

There is a solution. Everybody knows it. And we are going to get there. But I will say this to you. We cannot allow political expediency to stand in the way of the moral imperative to remove a President who is doing things that are detrimental to the country.