

the opinion of a group of lawyers within an executive branch Agency as to the relative powers of the courts and the executive branch.

The question of interference with these investigations by the President and the independence of those investigations also raises a variety of constitutional questions.

I have to say the top line of Mr. Barr on all of these issues was fantastic. I was kind of mentally cheering when he said some of the things he said about how he was going to keep his hands off, how he respected Mueller, how this was no witch hunt, how he was going to make sure it had full scope, how he was going to try to get the maximum transparency about the final report that he could—all of which was fine—and then we went into the weeds a little bit.

As the old saying goes, the devil is in the details. The question was serious enough that I raised it in the committee after the hearing because I was unsatisfied with his responses. Chairman GRAHAM was kind enough to acknowledge that those were pretty darn good questions, and I should get an answer to them. He said he would try to get an answer for me, and maybe we would get on the phone together to get Barr those answers. That did not come to pass.

Instead, I wrote Mr. Barr a letter, asking him to clarify his answers. I got back a letter that provided no clarification at all. So I have given him quite a few chances to try to answer these questions. I haven't gotten a straight answer back, which makes me a little bit worried.

Here is the problem—there are actually two problems. At the end of the day, whenever the Mueller report is concluded, that report can be provided to Congress, but there is considerable flexibility and considerable discretion within the Department of Justice and the Attorney General's office as to how much to give.

I will interrupt because I see the distinguished majority leader here.

I yield the floor to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I thank the Senator from Rhode Island.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO EMILIA DiSANTO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today I wish to acknowledge Emilia DiSanto, an outstanding civil servant who is retiring after almost 36 years of distinguished service in the Federal Government, 16 of which were here on Capitol Hill.

Emilia is a proud New Yorker, who graduated from Fordham Law School. She served in the Department of Energy, at the Legal Services Corporation, in both the House and Senate, and she worked for inspectors general.

Emilia is the ultimate civil servant who worked in both the executive and legislative branches of government. During her 16-year career on Capitol Hill, Emilia worked for, among others, Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Representative Bill Goodling, Henry Hyde, Bill McCollum, and Ambassador Pete Hoekstra. In the Senate, Emilia served as staff director for the Small Business Committee for Senator Kit Bond and, later, Senator Olympia Snow.

I had the pleasure of having Emilia on my staff in two different capacities. First, as the chief investigative counsel for the Special Committee on Aging where she conducted oversight of the nursing and funeral home industries. Emilia later served on the Finance Committee as my chief investigative counsel and special counsel and tackled such issues as drug and device safety, medical conflicts of interest, and other healthcare issues. She is known to be trustworthy, bold, honest, and bipartisan. Emilia has boundless energy and good judgment, and she is deeply committed to the interests of the American people. The American people are better off because of her public service.

CENTRE COLLEGE BICENTENNIAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Kentucky's rich history brings many causes of reflection and celebration. For 200 years, Centre College has been a premier setting for liberal arts education in Kentucky, earning nationwide acclaim and respect. So today I would like to commemorate the bicentennial of one of the Commonwealth's most treasured institutions.

In 1819, the Kentucky Legislature formally established the school in Danville, giving it a name inspired by its central geographic location. Overseeing the school was a board of trustees filled with notable Kentuckians, including our first Governor, Isaac Shelby, as its chairman and Ephraim McDowell, the famed frontier surgeon who performed the first successful ovariectomy. Construction began shortly after on the school's first building, which was completed the next year and stands to this day with the name "Old Centre." Classes began that fall with two professors and five pupils. With a commitment to classical liberal arts education, the curriculum focused on topics such as Latin, Greek, rhetoric, and logic.

Encountering financial difficulties in subsequent years, Kentucky ceded administration of Centre to a Presbyterian denomination but the legislature ensured that the school would remain accessible to students and faculty of all faiths. In 1830, a new president

took the reins of the school. Twenty-seven-year-old John C. Young, a minister, teacher, and administrator, expanded the college and helped advance it toward distinction. At the end of his 27 years of leadership, the school boasted a 200-plus student body, secured an endowment of more than \$100,000, and employed a renowned faculty.

Through the following decades, the school continued to grow in excellence and impact. Although the Civil War caused a temporary drop in the number of graduates—and the successive occupations of Old Centre by Confederate and Union forces—Centre's commitment to its liberal arts mission never wavered. The school had gained such great national distinction that the president of Princeton University, also the future President of the United States Woodrow Wilson, is said to have remarked in 1903 that, "There is a little college down in Kentucky which, in her sixty years, has graduated more men who have acquired prominence and fame than has Princeton in her 150 years."

Centre's reputation for excellence has reached beyond the classroom. In what the New York Times would later call "Football's Upset of the Century," the Praying Colonels scored an unlikely victory over the top-ranked Harvard University football team in 1921. Not long after, Centre officially became coeducational in 1926. The following decades saw the integration of the school, the expansion of the campus to include new buildings, and the establishment of a chapter of the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

One of the greatest measures of a college are the alumni it has produced. Centre graduates can be found in a wide range of distinguished fields, including the highest levels of the U.S. Government. Vice Presidents John C. Breckinridge and Adlai Stevenson both held diplomas from the school, as did Supreme Court Chief Justice Fred Vinson and Associate Justice John Marshall Harlan. More than a dozen U.S. Senators, scores of Congressmen, and 11 Governors have also graduated from the school, as have leaders in business, medicine, law, and journalism. Perhaps it was the school's history of producing Vice Presidents and other prominent figures that led to its hosting of not one, but two Vice Presidential debates, in 2000 and 2012.

For such an impressive milestone, Centre has planned a year of celebratory events to mark its history and to herald its potential for the future. With President John Roush, the faculty, staff, students, and one of the most engaged alumni bases in the country, I am proud to mark Centre College's bicentennial. They all deserve the Senate's congratulations and best wishes for the future of liberal arts education in Kentucky.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, like many of my fellow Americans I listened to the President's State of the Union Address 1 week ago, and while there are any number of the President's false or misleading assertions that I could refute, I want to take a minute to highlight just a few.

The President began his remarks with a focus on cooperation and compromise, calling for unity among both political parties to work together and break what he described as "decades of political stalemate." The reality is that last Tuesday's address followed the longest shutdown in our government's history—a shutdown that resulted from the President's stubborn refusal to work with Congress—and was delivered by a President who has made a daily practice of making unfounded, personal attacks against Democrats and anyone else who opposes his xenophobic, ill-conceived policies.

The President went on to call on Congress to make needed commitments to "defeat AIDS in America and beyond." Who doesn't support that? The problem is that his administration proposed a \$1 billion cut in fiscal year 2018 and a \$1.2 billion cut in fiscal year 2019 to combat HIV/AIDS around the world. This is typical of this White House. The President makes outlandish claims, whether in ignorance or reckless disregard for the truth, in a transparent attempt to appear to care about solving problems his administration is actually making worse.

Funding for these programs has been restored by Congress—not in partnership, but rather in spite of, the White House. Many Members of Congress, myself included, are waiting for the President's upcoming budget request for fiscal year 2020, to see if his professed support for HIV/AIDS programs will be backed up with the necessary funding.

The President also mentioned a new "government-wide initiative focused on economic empowerment for women in developing countries." That is a laudable goal that Republicans and Democrats have been supporting for years, but the reality is that this administration has repeatedly cut funding for family planning and other health programs that directly contribute to women's health and economic prosperity, as well as funding to combat gender-based violence and to support UN agencies focused on women's health, economic empowerment, and human rights.

The President stated that our country has "a moral duty to create an immigration system that protects the lives and jobs of our citizens." There is nothing remotely moral about forcibly and needlessly separating young children from their parents at our border and not even caring enough to keep a record of their whereabouts so they can be reunited with their parents. The President stated that he wants legal immigrants "to come into our country, in the largest numbers ever." Is he

even aware that his administration has slashed the refugee admissions cap from 110,000 per year down to 30,000, a record low for our country?

The President recalled the countless Americans, like the soldiers who stormed the beaches of Normandy 75 years ago, whose selfless sacrifices helped freedom triumph over fascism and solidified our Nation's place as the world's only superpower. He challenged us not to squander what we have inherited from "the blood and tears and courage and vision of the Americans who came before." The irony of that message isn't lost on those of us who have worked, if sometimes unsuccessfully, to mitigate the impact of the President's relentless efforts to undermine the international order that those Americans strived to create to protect global peace and security for future generations.

The President routinely injects uncertainty into our support for NATO, has withdrawn from the Iran nuclear deal despite Iran's compliance as confirmed by his own administration, removed the United States from the Paris Climate Accord, the Global Migration Compact, the UN Human Rights Council, and has otherwise threatened or taken steps to walk away from numerous multilateral commitments that provide the United States with a platform for global leadership. Without U.S. engagement in these arenas, our adversaries are unchecked to pursue their own interests, which are often at odds with ours.

The President should heed his own words. The American soldiers at Normandy were not answering a call to unilateralism or isolationism. President Roosevelt, 4 years earlier, cautioned the country against those who "believe that we can save our own skins by shutting our eyes to the fate of other nations." Addressing the threat of the Axis powers, he stated, "I make the direct statement to the American people that there is far less chance of the United States getting into war if we do all we can now to support the nations defending themselves against attack." Now, as then, we must do everything in our power to strengthen global alliances and confront threats to peace and stability head on. International diplomacy should be a tool of first resort, not a casualty of domestic politics. The President declares that his actions advance U.S. national security interests, but we know better.

These are but a few examples of how the President's lofty rhetoric bore no factual relationship to the actions of his administration. The American people deserve to know the truth, not to be misled by the President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING SARDUCCI'S

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President. I read an article about Sarducci's celebrating 25 years in Montpelier.

Marcelle and I have enjoyed eating at Sarducci's since it first opened and are thrilled with what Carol Paquette and Jeff Butterfield have done with the restaurant.

I remember when they first opened and how Dorothy Korshak, the original founder, wondered whether anybody would come in. I remember telling Dorothy that, if they keep providing food that good, people will show up.

My mother was born in Vermont, a first generation Italian-American. We always ate Italian food, both at my grandparents' home in South Ryegate, VT or at our home in Montpelier, VT. It feels like going home to go to Sarducci's. It is one of our favorite restaurants.

I ask unanimous consent that the article from thebridge entitled "Sarducci's Celebrates 25 Years in Montpelier" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From thebridge Jan. 23, 2019]

SARDUCCI'S CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN
MONTPELIER

(By Tim Simard)

On a recent sunny and chilly January afternoon, Sarducci's Restaurant founder and co-owner Carol Paquette relaxed by a front table and looked back on 25 years. Sitting alongside head chef and new co-owner Jeff Butterfield, Paquette marveled at surviving two-and-a-half decades in the restaurant business—a momentous achievement. This past weekend, the Montpelier institution quietly celebrated the milestone birthday.

Paquette can remember Sarducci's first day quite clearly—Jan. 19, 1994. It was a Wednesday.

"We opened at 4 pm. It was freezing outside. Dorothy Korshak [founder and former business partner] and I had no idea who might or how many people might stop in. We really hadn't done any advertising to let people know we were opening," she said.

But people knew. Oh, they knew. Within the first hour of business, it was clear that Montpelier was ready for Sarducci's.

"The doors opened and people just kept coming in. We hadn't planned on so many that night, but by the end we had served close to 200 people," Paquette said, still in awe of that first night's success.

Paquette attributes Sarducci's early success to a lack of restaurants in Montpelier at that time. She said locals were "desperate" for a place where families could sit down in a cozy atmosphere with the whole family and have an amazing, authentic Italian dinner.

The signature wood-fired oven was also a unique feature for a Montpelier restaurant. Paquette and Korshak—who started their partnership as coworkers at Julio's—researched Italian restaurants in Boston, New York, and Chicago and noted the popularity of these ovens.

"We saw the restaurants that had the wood-fired ovens were becoming more and more popular," Paquette said.

Since those first days, Sarducci's has become a go-to dining spot in the Capital City. In its 25 years, the restaurant has renovated its space, added a deck overlooking the Winooski River, and doubled its seating capacity, all while keeping its menu remarkably consistent. Today, Sarducci's enters a new chapter as it celebrates a quarter century.