

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S
FAILED POLICIES IN THE
NORTHERN TRIANGLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity to speak. I thank Representative CLYBURN for allowing me a few minutes to address a pressing issue before he assumes control of this Special Order hour.

Last week, the President of the United States made politically motivated announcements that he will seek to cut U.S. aid to Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, which together are commonly known and referred to as the Northern Triangle countries. In making his decision, the President cited asylum seekers—moms, children, seniors, and young men—who make up the migration patterns from these nations that reflect themselves at the southern border.

As it turns out, Mr. Speaker, I was in the region with some of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle when the President articulated his plan to freeze foreign aid for this part of the world. This aid has effectively helped curb violence in El Salvador, forge economic hope, and furnish essential health and education programs there as well.

While on this trip with key members of the Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees, we met with leaders from the region and El Salvador and discussed the relationship between the United States and their respective countries with great optimism.

I will admit, Mr. Speaker, the manner in which our President views and discusses our regional partners stands in stark contrast to the security objectives and economic commonalities we discussed with his Central American counterparts.

When our President rambles on about "evil people" pouring into our country and the millions and millions of dollars we are just giving these governments, comments that are not only racist in scope but patently false, he fails to understand that this very aid is our best approach and our best tool in addressing the migration patterns to the southern border.

With our assistance, these countries can make tangible progress toward building an environment where their citizens feel safe, industry prospers, and people receive the essential services they need and deserve.

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When my colleagues and I were in Mexico, a country that perhaps has received more of the President's verbal attacks than any other country in the world, we discussed budding economic zones in the country and the sweeping development initiatives its new President Lopez Obrador has undertaken.

We discussed the fact that less than 12 percent of the folks going back from

the southern border to their countries of birth are from Mexico.

We discussed the curtains of economic development that the Mexican President plans to put forward—not a wall, curtains of economic development: a rail line in the Mayan coast; reforestation of the southern border of Mexico; and infrastructure, very ambitious infrastructure projects close to the northern border.

Perhaps we should look at that as a guide to what we should do here in our Nation.

And having conversations about shutting down our border as we were there was not something very positive for our visit.

In El Salvador, we met with ambitious, 38-year-old President-elect Nayib Bukele. He detailed his intentions to work more closely with the United States, specifically, to review and re-evaluate Chinese influence and an agreement with China that he has inherited from the previous government.

He also informed us that, because of our help, Mr. Speaker, homicide has gone down 50 percent in El Salvador. At one point, 104 people per 100,000 people were being killed, the highest homicide rate in the world. It is now down 50 percent—still a war zone, but down 50 percent. Young people are being recruited away from the gangs.

What they really need now is a shot in the arm for economic development and jobs. That is what will help with the migration patterns that reflect themselves at the southern border.

And this young President has captured the enthusiasm of the young people. He campaigned against corruption and violence; yet, while we were there, the President threatened to cut the aid to El Salvador.

In fact, we should take what we did there to Guatemala and Honduras, because it is working.

And it is clear, Mr. Speaker, that this is all summed up that the President fails to share our optimism that collaboration will lead to a solution in this region.

He fails to register the miserable motivations that would prompt somebody to seek refuge for their families in an unknown country thousands and thousands of miles away. People just don't get up and leave their families and neighborhoods. They do that because they are facing violence, because they are facing abject poverty, because they are facing natural disasters.

The President fails to understand that. He fails to understand, Mr. Speaker, that Chinese and Russian influence in Central America is growing and that every step we take backwards will result in two steps forward for them and will leave a vacuum of leadership in the region.

Right now, the President is simply failing—failing the American people and failing our allies.

I look forward to reviewing this issue this week when the Foreign Affairs Committee holds a hearing on the ad-

ministration's failed policies in Central America.

We must hold him accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Whip CLYBURN for allowing me some time to address this issue on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in lieu of our monthly Special Order hour, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

HONORING ERNEST "FRITZ"
HOLLINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) will control the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed emotions that I stand in the well here this evening with my colleagues from South Carolina. We are here because our State and our Nation has lost a giant of a man, one whom I call a one-of-a-kind statesman, Ernest "Fritz" Hollings.

A native of Charleston, South Carolina, he graduated from The Citadel in 1947, and the very next year, 1948, he was elected to the South Carolina Legislature. There, he served until being elected Lieutenant Governor in 1954.

I am pointing out some years here because I want to make a statement about the man Fritz Hollings.

He was elected Governor in 1958.

Now, in 1947, some interesting things were taking place in South Carolina at the time Ernest Hollings graduated college; and, in 1948, when he was elected to the legislature, a very significant court decision was handed down.

The court case was *Elmore v. Rice*, the 1948 court case that opened up the South Carolina Democratic primary to people other than Whites. This was the atmosphere within which Fritz Hollings was first elected.

And, of course, in 1954, when he was elected Lieutenant Governor, I need not tell anybody what Court decision came down that year. That was the year that the Supreme Court ruled that school desegregation had to take place. That was the atmosphere.

So, 4 years later, Fritz Hollings gets elected Governor. I was a student on the campus of South Carolina State when he was elected, and in 1960 is when I first met Fritz Hollings.

He was Governor, and I was organizing sit-ins in Orangeburg, South Carolina, and he had invited us to the State house. He gave me a great lesson that day in politics, so much so, that what we talked about in his office on that day I still have not told anybody.

Well, fast-forward. Fritz Hollings, Governor of a State with tremendous challenges. So what did he do? Did he just meander through time, as so many did in those days? No.