

awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 356) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 26, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 324.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 324) designating September 29, 2019, as "National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 324) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 24, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ATRIUM IN THE PHILIP A. HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING FOR THE NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY, A SEMI- ANNUAL EVENT FOR THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 359 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 359) authorizing the use of the atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, a semiannual event for the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 359) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 17; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator MARKEY.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the impeachment inquiry currently under way in the House of Representatives. The House impeachment inquiry is a solemn and serious matter. It concerns the official conduct of the President of the United States, and it implicates matters of grave importance: our national security, the rule of law, and the very foundations of our Constitution.

We all—Democrats and Republicans alike—have a duty to defend our democracy, so when we are confronted with evidence that President Donald Trump abused his power and violated his oath of office by seeking foreign interference in our elections and then sought to cover it up, we have a constitutional obligation to investigate.

The evidence we have already seen validates Speaker PELOSI's decision to

open an impeachment inquiry and reinforces the need for this inquiry to continue unimpeded. Indeed, Donald Trump himself has already confirmed key evidence.

Just look at what we know so far. We know that Donald Trump asked a foreign power, Ukraine, to investigate his political opponent. The President both admitted it on live television and then released a transcript showing that it had happened just as a whistleblower alleged that it did. That is not in dispute.

We also know that Donald Trump then doubled down, subsequently admitting on camera that he wants foreign governments like Ukraine and China to investigate his political opponents. That is not in dispute.

So instead of focusing on the Latin phrase "quid pro quo," the President should be saying, "mea culpa"—my fault, but he is not. And with each passing day, additional evidence of serious wrongdoing at the highest levels of our government has surfaced, evidence that Donald Trump has subjugated the Nation's interest to his personal and political interest and evidence that plainly warrants further investigation.

For example, we learned that prior to his phone call with Ukrainian President Zelensky, Donald Trump blocked almost \$400 million in military and security aid to Ukraine. Moreover, as the White House's own partial transcript of the conversation reflects, Donald Trump conditioned this aid on the Ukrainian President's willingness to conduct a political investigation, telling him: "I would like you to do this as a favor though."

Donald Trump's quid pro quo linking U.S. military and security aid to a politically motivated investigation makes his admitted solicitation of foreign interference in our elections that much worse. It is an abuse of power and betrayal of Trump's oath to the Constitution and promise to the American people.

We have also learned that White House officials moved the transcript of the phone call between President Trump and President Zelensky from its typical electronic storage system to a separate system intended to handle classified information of an especially sensitive nature. In other words, there appears to have been an effort to cover up Donald Trump's wrongdoing.

We are also witnessing extraordinary attacks by Donald Trump on the whistleblower who brought the matter to light.

Donald Trump's attacks on this individual are so serious and so harmful that they may rise to the level of witness tampering and obstruction of justice. They send a chilling message to others who may have information and are contemplating coming forward.

It should go without saying that whistleblowers play an important role

in our democracy, especially when it comes to whistleblowers in the intelligence community. They should be praised and not demonized or threatened.

Most recently, we have learned that the President allowed his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, to conduct a shadow foreign policy outside of proper State Department channels—a foreign policy that serves personal interests and the President's personal political interests, but not the interests of the United States or the American people.

We have learned that two individuals connected to Giuliani have been indicted on charges of violating Federal campaign finance laws stemming from hidden foreign campaign donations. We have learned that a career diplomat with an unblemished record was recalled from Ukraine because she honored her oath to the Constitution, but Trump viewed her as an impediment to his foreign policy agenda.

These are just some of the things we have learned in the past few days.

So what must we do? The answer is simple. We must investigate and get all the facts, Donald Trump's unprecedented and unjustified refusal to cooperate notwithstanding. The torrent of revelations of serious misconduct relating to foreign interference in our elections only underscores the need for the House investigation to continue unimpeded.

The Founding Fathers were very concerned about foreign interference in America's democracy. They knew that foreign involvement in our politics and

elections posed a threat to our sovereignty as a new nation.

In 1787, John Adams wrote: "As often as elections happen, the danger of foreign influence recurs." In 1788, Alexander Hamilton warned us that foreign powers trying to gain influence in our politics would be "the most deadly adversaries of Republican government."

The threat of foreign interference in our elections is as serious today as it was more than 200 years ago. We must do all that we can to defend against it, and that includes an impeachment inquiry into the conduct of the President when he admits to soliciting that very interference.

The House of Representatives is going to begin a process. If the House of Representatives ultimately approves articles of impeachment against Donald Trump, the Senate will hold a trial and our Members will serve as jurors.

As a member of the Senate and a potential juror, I will take my job as seriously as any I have ever had in this institution, and I hope my Republican colleagues will do so as well. The American people deserve nothing less.

Leader McCONNELL and my Republican colleagues must uphold their oaths to the Constitution, put country over party, and conduct a fair trial. Anything short of that would be a dereliction of duty.

No one should prejudge the case. Indeed, that is precisely the advice that Leader McCONNELL gave during the 1998 impeachment proceedings when he stated: "As a potential juror, if it's serious enough to warrant a potential

impeachment proceeding, I don't think I ought to prejudge the case."

We have a constitutional duty to investigate President Trump's attempts to orchestrate foreign interference in our elections, the usage of his office to support his personal political goals, and how he sought to cover up that effort. Nothing less than our national security, the rule of law, and our constitutional order are at stake.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:11 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 16, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID JOHN NOVAK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA.

RACHEL P. KOVNER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

FRANK WILLIAM VOLK, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA.

CHARLES R. ESKRIDGE III, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BARBARA McCONNELL BARRETT, OF ARIZONA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.