

of our body here is authorized to know and discuss and learn about.

So it has been quite surprising to be locked out of hearings. And we know that they are not so sensitive that only the Intelligence Committee could hear them, because they lumped in two other committees, Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Reform, so it is not about just keeping it confined to the Intelligence Committee.

But I specifically heard the Speaker say that six committees would be investigating, and I am on one of those, and, yet, I go into the SCIF, into the hallway outside of the secure area, and I am not allowed to go in.

I wanted to know who gave the order, and the Democratic staff said: Well, you know, that is the order.

Who gave the order?

Well, our boss told us.

So an unelected staffer tells two other staffers that you are to prevent a duly elected Member of Congress from doing their job.

I wanted to know who gave that order. Is it in writing somewhere? Who gave that order? Who is it that is undermining the election of over half of the Members of Congress to prevent them from being able to do their job? Who gave that order?

They couldn't say. They send out more staff; not a Member of Congress. It seemed a little cowardly to me. Nobody would come out. I was there with friends like ANDY HARRIS, ANDY BIGGS, and others. I went ahead and went through the first door—there is another door there—and they went apologetic.

I am authorized to hear classified information. I am authorized to hear the classified information that they were supposedly listening to. But the truth is, it is not classified. There is no reason for it to be classified.

This is all a political show. That is why there is no written order. That is why there has been no vote in here to proceed with impeachment, and it is just wrong.

I don't remember who said it, but there was some historian that noted there are many different—not many, but there are a number of different phases of a civil war, and only the last phase involves guns.

But this sure feels like this coup attempt is setting this country up for civil war. I won't participate in a civil war, but our job here, our oath here is to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

I took that oath as a prosecutor. I took that oath in the United States Army—Active Duty for 4 years, inactive Reserve for 2 more years. I took that oath as a judge, as a felony judge. I took that oath as a chief justice, and I take that oath every 2 years, right here.

And that is what a lot of us are trying to do. But what is going on around here is not fair. It is not just. It is against the House rules. The House rules are very clear: If there was not a

specific rule in “Jefferson’s Manual and Rules of the House of Representatives,” as adopted every 2 years, then the precedence is what is the rule in that case.

And the precedence on impeachment, it goes through the Judiciary Committee, and it doesn't happen anything like what is happening now. It is true. The majority could come in here and have a vote and amend the rules so they could defy all precedent on impeachment. But for some reason, they prefer to break the rules rather than simply come in and do what they can as majority. They can change the rule any time they get ready. They have got enough votes to do that.

They won't do that. For some reason, they prefer to break the rules. This is not good. Kids across America see what is going on.

They are not taught history like they once were. Why? Because since we have the Department of Education and it mandates the Federal test—oh, yeah, you can come up with your own test, but here is what has to be on there. And if a child fails that, then you don't get any of your money back for that child's year in school. So everybody is scared. Many schools drop history, drop civics.

That is why a survey in recent years indicated college students could name The Three Stooges in greater numbers than they could name the three branches of government.

So they don't know as much as they used to about what goes on here. But when they see that if you are in the majority, you can break the rules any time you want, if you dislike some other elected official—like a President—and just try to eliminate him from office, then it is okay.

In other words, the new Constitution for America, apparently, based on what we are seeing going on here on Capitol Hill, is that if you are in the majority, then the ends justify the means.

Since I have been here, there were times we were in the majority when there were Republicans—thank God they were in a small number—but they thought the ends justified the means. It didn't for them, and it doesn't for anybody else.

This little experiment in self-government, we know won't last forever. Anybody that studied history at all knows, no country, no government lasts forever. And we are on borrowed time right now, because we are setting records every day as the Nation that has functioned the longest under one founding document, our Constitution. The Romans didn't make it that long as a republic. We are setting records every day.

We know it won't last forever, but my commitment is to do everything I can to perpetuate our freedom, and what was given to us, as the greatest country in the history of the world, more opportunity, more individual assets than any country, even more than Solomon's Israel. We are an anomaly.

And we have broken the record on how long we can exist with the freedoms we have.

It is time we come together and stop playing political games so that years from now, future generations will not be rising up and cursing our names. We need to come together and abide by the rules and the Constitution so that we have a shot some day of our children rising up and calling us blessed.

That ought to be our goal. I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, October 21, 2019, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2665. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — The Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund [WC Docket No.: 18-143]; Connect America Fund [WC Docket No.: 10-90]; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications [WC Docket No.: 14-58] received October 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2666. A letter from the Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Updating the Intercarrier Compensation Regime to Eliminate Access Arbitrage [WC Docket No.: 18-155] received October 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2667. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report detailing the progress and the status of compliance with privatization requirements, pursuant to Public Law 105-33, Sec. 11201(c)(2)(B); (111 Stat. 734); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2668. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting a signed agreement between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Access to Electronic Data for the Purpose of Countering Serious Crime; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2669. A letter from the Acting Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report advising that the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3416-EM in the State of Louisiana has exceeded the limit for a single emergency declaration, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193(b)(3); Public Law 93-288, Sec. 503(b)(3) (as amended by Public Law 100-707, Sec. 107(a)); (102 Stat. 4707); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2670. A letter from the Acting Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report advising that