

WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, during this difficult time, the House will continue our strong legislative agenda for the people: lowering healthcare costs, creating bigger paychecks, building the physical and human infrastructure of America.

My friends on the other side of the aisle want to belittle our work here by focusing solely on the impeachment process. The American people want the truth. The House will proceed with our impeachment inquiry to find the facts and expose the truth, guided by our Constitution and the facts. This is about patriotism, not politics or partisanship.

I am pleased that, despite the Senate's refusal to move on legislation passed in the House, my office continues to work hard on behalf of the people of America.

My office was successful in convincing HUD to release CDBG funding for mitigation activities. \$774 million in HUD CDBG mitigation funds have been released to the Virgin Islands.

The House doubled the funding on the Violence Against Women Act for my people.

The House has averted the Medicaid cliff, increasing the Federal Government's share of spending to the Territories.

We wait on the Senate to act.

CONGRESS HAS A DUTY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, Members of Congress have a solemn duty to work to keep our Nation safe, secure, and more prosperous than it was yesterday. We are expected to analyze sensitive information to gain a more in-depth understanding of the needs of the American people and the threats our country faces on a daily basis.

That role is even more consequential for the members of the Intelligence Committee, who are entrusted with the privileged information that other Members cannot access. You would expect them to focus day and night on securing our Nation and promoting our national security priorities abroad, but that has not been the case in this Congress.

Under the Democratic majority, the most basic responsibilities of the committee have been neglected. Instead, the House Intelligence Committee is using its time and resources to run a sham impeachment inquiry in secret.

Members of this Chamber will be asked to take one of the gravest votes a Member could take before seeing a single transcript from a witness deposi-

tion. The information Members and the public hear is incomplete or intentionally distorted by selective leaks.

Madam Speaker, at what cost does this impeachment effort come?

As Democrats push forward with this sham partisan process, our Nation is losing its intelligence edge around the world, particularly against China. Not only are there significant intelligence gaps in order to accurately assess the Chinese threat, the Chinese are actually ahead of us when it comes to technological capabilities that are critical to national security.

The Intelligence Committee's members are uniquely qualified to formulate our Nation's response, but they cannot address these challenges because of the committee's continued distraction over impeachment.

The larger issue goes beyond what the Democrats are doing in one committee. It is what they have failed to do as a majority. Their trend of inaction strikes at home.

They have failed to swiftly pass the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. In fact, they voted to prioritize impeachment over it earlier today.

They have failed to address surprise medical billing.

They have failed to secure our border or reform our crumbling infrastructure.

They have failed to lower prescription drug prices in a bipartisan way.

The House Democrats are failing to pass appropriations bills that would end the continuing resolution and fund the government. As a result, pay increases for our troops, disaster recovery funds, and NIH medical research funding are all at a stalemate.

Each of these failures represent an enormous opportunity cost for the American people.

Democrats have chosen impeachment over getting anything done, even though they previously warned of that exact problem.

In August, Congresswoman SLOTKIN said: "People in my district are wanting us to pass bills, and they fear that if we go down this path of impeachment, we're not going to be working on the things that affect their lives, their pocketbooks, and their kids."

In September, Congressman MAX ROSE said: "Impeachment will not fix our roads and bridges or lower the cost of drugs. . . . The truth is impeachment will only tear our country further apart, and we will see no progress on the enormous challenges we face as a nation."

Democrats said their majority would be different. They promised the American public, if they entrusted them with the majority, they would act differently, that they would put people before politics.

Madam Speaker, in the polls we see today, more people can tell you about the investigations but can't tell you anything that has been accomplished. They have broken their promise to solve problems, work for all Americans, and focus on passing legislation.

Madam Speaker, there are 22 legislative days left on the calendar—22. In that brief time, we have a lot of work to do, but we cannot fulfill our responsibilities if Members in this Chamber continue to turn their backs on the promise they made when their constituents sent them to Washington.

Madam Speaker, how much money was spent? How many ads were made? And how many promises were given that this majority would be different, how many things they said they would accomplish?

And how much time have they wasted? We are 13 months from an election, but we have not accomplished a thing.

We are better than this.

Madam Speaker, if you only listened to what Members on the other side of the aisle said just in August and September, before the political pressure forced them to change their mind.

Madam Speaker, if the Speaker had only waited 48 hours, we would not put America through another nightmare. We would not break the fabric of democracy of this Nation.

Madam Speaker, this is the people's House. We have got 22 more days. We ask that you keep the promise you made to the American public and you stop this sham of an impeachment you call.

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LYNCHING WARRANTS AN ENHANCED SENTENCE UNDER HATE CRIME STATUTES

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, between 1882 and 1968, 3,446 African Americans were lynched in this Nation. This fact appears to be completely lost on the President, who just this morning conflated constitutionally mandated oversight with the horrific act of lynching.

The heinous nature of lynching is why I have introduced H.R. 35, The Emmitt Till Antilynching Act. Madam Speaker, this bipartisan bill would specify that lynching is a crime in and of itself, and that its vile nature warrants an enhanced sentence under hate crime statutes.

I would encourage all my colleagues to support this bill and to reject this President's vile rhetoric.

THE PARTISAN IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY IS DANGEROUS

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, an impeachment inquiry is one of the most serious actions the House can take. But the gravity of such proceedings seem to be lost on the Democratic Caucus.

As a reminder, I would like to quote Federalist 65:

The prosecution of impeachment will seldom fail to agitate the passions of the whole community, and to divide it into parties more or less friendly or inimical to the accused. In many cases it will connect itself with the preexisting factions and will enlist all their animosities, partialities, influence and interest on one side or the other; and in such cases there will always be the greatest danger that the decision will be regulated more by the comparative strength of parties than by the real demonstrations of innocence or guilt.

Speaker PELOSI's impeachment inquiry by fiat has realized this greatest danger. I call on her to allow for an open debate on this process immediately.

HONORING THE 2019 NATIONAL GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUT MEGAN LOH

(Mr. CISNEROS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 39th Congressional District resident Megan Loh and her passion to ensure more young women and girls are represented and encouraged to participate in the field of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

Megan, an avid Girl Scout and Troy High School student from Fullerton, formed her own nonprofit GEARup4Youth to encourage girls interested in STEAM and STEM career paths.

GEARup4Youth has already benefited more than 9,500 girls to date.

Megan also initiated the first girls-only robotics class at a local Boys & Girls Clubs of America. And she partnered with over 200 organizations to host presentations, family STEM events, and expos about her technology curriculum.

Megan even authored her own book, "Easy STEM Activities You Can Do At Home" in order to broaden more young girls' interests in STEAM.

For all her amazing and passionate work on behalf of young girls, Megan was named one of the 2019 National Gold Award Girl Scouts. In Megan's own words, we must continue to show young girls that they do belong in tech fields that aren't simply open to them, but need them. And as an education advocate, I couldn't agree more.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering my sincerest congratulations to Megan and thank her for all her work on behalf of young women like herself.

WHAT ARE THE DEMOCRATS HIDING?

(Mr. JORDAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, what are the Democrats hiding? What are

they hiding? Trying to impeach the President of the United States 13 months before an election based on an anonymous whistleblower with no first-hand knowledge, who has a bias against the President, who worked with Joe Biden, who wrote a memo the day after the call. And he described the call as "frightening, scary," but then he waits 18 days before he files the complaint. And who does he run off and see during that 18-day timeframe? ADAM SCHIFF, the guy who is running the secret process in a bunker in the basement of the Capitol.

What are they hiding from the American people? Americans get fairness. They understand it. And they instinctively know that this secretive process is not fair. 435 Members of the House representing over 300 million people in this country, and only one of them, ADAM SCHIFF, knows who the guy is who started this whole darn charade. ADAM SCHIFF is the only one who knows. Why don't the rest of us? Why don't, more importantly, the 300 million people who we all get the privilege of representing, why don't they know who the people are who started this whole darn process that the American people see through?

Americans get fairness, and they know this is instinctively unfair.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN ELIJAH CUMMINGS

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our chairman, Elijah Cummings.

He was my first chairman. Chairman Cummings believed in the possibility of better from this institution. He understood that our squad was big and embraced the new era of social justice movement in our country. Congressman Cummings' presence was iconic, and I am humbled and honored to have served with him.

I pray that Congressman Cummings' wife and family find peace during this very difficult time in knowing that he has left a powerful legacy that has been centered on truth and justice.

I have a picture of my son with Congressman Cummings. He always said that children are the messages we send in the future. And so I wanted to honor Congressman Cummings by showing and displaying just the beautiful smile I remember that he provided for my 14-year old boy.

A MATTER OF JURISDICTION

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege and honor of serving most of my career in Congress on the Permanent Select Committee

on Intelligence. It is important work that goes on in secret, typically, and it is really important. Typically it involves the oversight of 17 agencies which we empower to protect this Nation from enemies abroad.

That important work has been hijacked by this investigation, which is being led by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The Intelligence Committee works with sources and methods. Madam Speaker, there is nothing classified about anything that is going on downstairs in our SCIF. There are no sources or methods at risk here.

This is a jurisdictional issue. This investigation, should it be happening at all, should be done by the Committee on the Judiciary. That is where Articles of Impeachment will have to come from, not the Intelligence Committee. Our good work that is important to this Nation is being hijacked by this process that should not even, in my view, be going on. But if it should be going on, Chairman NADLER should be the one leading this effort, not Chairman SCHIFF.

I ask the Speaker to go the normal route, put the inquiry on the floor, have us vote on that, allow all of us to express our opinion, not just hers, but all of our opinions on this issue.

OUR DEMOCRACY IS UNDER ATTACK

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, our democracy is under attack. In 2016, Russia engaged in misinformation campaigns aimed at influencing our election results. Earlier this month, the Senate Intelligence Committee released a report that warns that these campaigns could evolve, intensify, and inspire other bad actors to make similar attempts in 2020.

Just yesterday, Facebook reported it shut down new accounts linked to Iran and Russia that are trying to influence our elections next year. Each and every one of us swore an oath to uphold and defend our Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic.

Now is the time to live up to that oath. No foreign government can be allowed to jeopardize the future of our democracy. I, therefore, ask each and every one of you today, what will you do to defend our democracy?

IT IS TIME THAT WE PUT THE FACTS ON THE TABLE

(Mr. MEADOWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, in a SCIF in the basement of this very building is a secret process, a process that is designed to keep the truth from the American people. Now, it is not