

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: