

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, due process is a right so important that we have not one but two constitutional amendments to ensure it.

Past impeachment inquiries began with a resolution to define scope, to establish rules and procedures, and to give equal subpoena power to the minority. These due process protections are critical because removing a President is one of the most serious decisions Congress can make.

But last week, the Democratic Caucus chair dismissed our pleas for a resolution to formalize the impeachment inquiry as a “cosmetic procedural matter.” Cosmetic. Since when did fairness in this country become cosmetic?

Democrats point to the Constitution in undertaking this inquiry, but look at how it is being handled. There is no due process. The accused is presumed guilty. There is no right to confront your accuser. All proceedings are taking place in secret.

The only reason for secret hearings is to control what people see and what they hear. This sham process disregards the fundamental rights our country is founded on, and the American people deserve more.

□ 2015

PIED PIPER IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr BACON. Madam Speaker, since President Trump was elected, Democrats have been pushing impeachment. For 2 years, the current chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence told us he had the smoking gun on collusion. The Mueller report showed the opposite, and then the chairman was not forthcoming regarding his staff's communications with the whistleblower. There is no credibility here.

The partisan impeachment effort has led to secret hearings, the minority Congress is not allowed to bring in witnesses, and the President is denied representation—violating all previous precedence in this House.

Americans demand fairness.

There have been no high crimes or misdemeanors, and hatred for the President is not grounds for impeachment. Voters decided the winner in 2016 and will do so again in 2020.

America's business is not getting done while the Democratic leadership is playing the pied piper and marching America off the impeachment cliff.

SECRET IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in protest of the secrecy with which the House majority is conducting its impeachment inquiry. It is

unlike anything we have seen in Congress. That is probably because, lacking any evidence for their claims, the so-called resistance has already determined the outcome. The same people who perpetrated the Russia hoax are rushing forward with plan Z to remove the President from office.

Partisan congressional staff helped to craft the specious complaint at the heart of this impeachment inquiry. The inquiry itself will take place in secret to avoid public scrutiny.

Some Democrats have admitted that the only way a far left socialist candidate could replace Donald Trump is to remove him from office.

The American people want jobs, affordable healthcare, and security, not far left socialist agendas. But with nothing else to offer, a radical group in Congress has become obsessed with removing this President from office. It is an attack on our democracy and our Constitution.

Madam Speaker, my constituents care about real issues. I appeal to more sensible Members to stop this abuse of power and concentrate on what we can accomplish together.

SOVIET-STYLE IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, this isn't Russia; this is America. Yet right in this building, a Soviet-style Star Chamber to remove the duly elected President is occurring.

The person who leads it lied to the American people for 2½ years about evidence he didn't have. The person who leads it is literally guilty of what he accuses the President of doing when he is caught on tape negotiating with foreign people about getting dirt on the President.

The person who leads it lied to the world in his reading of a mock transcript about the conversation that the President had with the President of Ukraine, and the person who leads it misled the world about his relationship with the whistleblower, or the so-called whistleblower.

Madam Speaker, we need to end this Stalinist, guilty-until-proven-innocent Star Chamber now.

SHAM IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, for years America has been force-fed investigation after investigation of our duly elected President, and we have seen each of these sham investigations meet the same dead end because there is no evidence of any wrongdoing by Donald Trump.

I have lost hope that these pointless probes will end. House Democrats are bent on wasting time and taxpayer dol-

lars. If we are all forced to endure this charade, the least they could do is conduct a fair investigation.

They say they have evidence to impeach the President yet refuse to share what that evidence is. They say this is an official impeachment inquiry, and yet we haven't voted to make it so.

Where is the transparency?

The only evidence that is crystal clear is that the Democrats despise the President so much that they will do anything to take him down. They hate that Donald Trump is blocking their agenda of a green, socialist, nanny state with open borders, so they are willing to mislead the public to get their way.

There is no due process, just hatred. It is a dangerous precedent to our great Republic.

DISTRACTION IMPEACHMENT

(Mrs. MILLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to denounce the partisan motivations and lack of transparency behind Speaker PELOSI and Chairman SCHIFF's impeachment proceedings.

For the past 10 months, my colleagues across the aisle have operated with one sole motivation: undoing the results of the 2016 election. As such, Congress has failed to advance the priorities of the American people.

We have not funded crucial legislation to fix our outdated and crumbling infrastructure. We have not addressed the crisis on the southern border. Meanwhile, the opioid epidemic continues to rage on.

All we have to show for the past 10 months is a handful of liberal messaging bills that have no chance of being made into law.

While the priorities of the American people have been pushed to the side, all of Congress' energy and resources have been diverted to behind-closed-door impeachment proceedings far from beyond the sight of my fellow colleagues and completely hidden from the taxpayers.

This is not why I came to Congress. This is not what we were sent here to do. The American people deserve better.

CHARADE IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. WRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my outrage over the ongoing parliamentary inquiry against our President.

Impeachment is the House's most solemn and serious responsibility. It should not be undertaken haphazardly. Although I strongly believe in Congress' oversight duties and agree that no public official, including the President, is above the law, I have serious concerns about the partisan nature and procedure of this inquiry.