

Beyond the fact that this inquiry was launched before the transcript of the call to Ukraine was released, the Speaker's decision to launch an inquiry without a full vote of the House and attempts to restrict the involvement of Republicans and the American public in the impeachment proceedings defy precedence.

From the beginning, this effort has been mired by the Democrats' partisanship and a complete lack of transparency. The American public deserves the truth. Instead, all they are getting are cherry-picked leaks in classic Washington fashion.

Madam Speaker, in its current form, this process is an outrage and counter to our interests and the values of our Republic. I urge my colleagues to abandon this political charade and adhere to the Constitution and congressional precedent.

PARTISAN IMPEACHMENT

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today because what we are witnessing is unprecedented in the history of this country. House Democratic leaders are conducting an impeachment inquiry behind closed doors with selective leaks instead of transparency, with no due process and without a vote on the House floor.

Why do they want to keep this process hidden from view? Because they know the American people will see right through this partisan scheme.

Democrats decided to impeach this President the day he took office. Now they are just trying to come up with a reason, no matter what the facts are.

The American people know that Washington is broken, and they sent us here to fix it. Instead, House Democrats are shaking the people's trust in this institution.

We should be passing USMCA to give our farmers and workers a better deal.

We should be voting on bipartisan legislation to lower prescription drug costs.

We should be working to fix our immigration system and secure the border.

Madam Speaker, it is time to end this charade and get back to work.

UNPRECEDENTED IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, you authorized holding an impeachment hearing, but I don't think that is what you are really doing.

If so, you wouldn't have disregarded precedent from the Nixon and Clinton eras, or we would have all voted before this was to proceed.

If so, you wouldn't have denied the minority the ability to call witnesses

or me and other Members the ability to attend hearings or even view the transcripts.

Madam Speaker, approximately 90 percent of your party members wanted to impeach before this so-called inquiry ever began. That is why I say you are really not trying to hold an impeachment inquiry. You simply want to remove a President. And we are within 1 year of an election. You want to deny Americans the right to decide for themselves.

At the heart of the matter and the real reason you are doing this is because your party does not have a winning Presidential candidate and no significant accomplishments this session.

Madam Speaker, can we please go back to work?

SHOW TRIAL IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give voice to my constituents on the destructive partisan and secret impeachment inquiry, which really is a slap in the face to the overwhelming majority of Pennsylvania's 11th District who voted for and continue to support President Trump.

Judith from Ephrata writes:

Congressman, my husband and I are furious about this constant push to impeach President Trump. We don't care how many Members of Congress don't like him. It is not their choice; it is ours.

Rebecca from Lititz writes:

I am alarmed at the political climate and attempts to impeach our President. The House has done nothing to solve the issues facing our country and continues to spend their time trying to stop the progress that our President has made.

Jody from Windsor writes:

Can you please tell Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats that the overwhelming majority of people I interact with in my daily life want them to stop these unfounded impeachment proceedings into President Trump and get back to work fixing the issues we elected Congress to fix?

Madam Speaker, I share my constituents' anger and frustration toward the show trial. This process isn't honest or fair.

HALLOWEEN IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, Halloween is 9 days away. It is a holiday that happens in the dark. It is about fear, deceit, and witch hunts—anything to hide who you truly are.

Back home, Texans are stunned. How can the majority party of the House use a kids' holiday, Halloween, as a model for the most dramatic action Congress can take: impeaching a sitting President? The ghouls and goblins of the House majority are now the Hal-

loween party and make up this process as they go along.

Impeachment demands an inquiry vote by the full House, a full vote by the full House. The Democrat majority did that with Richard Nixon in the 1970s, and the Republican majority did that with Bill Clinton in the 1990s.

The House Halloween party allowed 41 Members of this body of 435 to go forward with impeachment. This party is following the Wizard of Oz. If they pursue this witch hunt, the House will fall down on November 2020. The witch hunt will be over.

SO-CALLED IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I have learned from Democrat press conferences and Washington Post leaks that this body has an ongoing so-called impeachment inquiry.

But can I, as a Member of Congress, watch the testimony? No.

Can you watch the testimony at home so you can decide for yourself? No.

Why are the hearings taking place in the basement behind guarded doors? What do they want to keep from me? What do they want to keep from you, Madam Speaker, either hearing or seeing?

I don't know, but Speaker NANCY PELOSI knows, and you can call her and ask her why at 202-225-4965. Ask her what she has to hide, at 202-225-4965. Ask her why you can't watch the hearing, at 202-225-4965.

The American people deserve the answers.

Call 202-225-4965.

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UNPRECEDENTED IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, this is an unbelievable time in our history.

There is nothing more important than elected office. It is something that was discussed in the Declaration of Independence, and yet, we have an attempted coup taking place. It violates the principles on which this Nation was founded of due process—the right to confront the witnesses against you.

And I would submit, humbly, that there is no cause for concern for the so-called whistleblower's safety from President Trump. All the witnesses against him are alive and well.

So who is it he is afraid might come after him if he discloses what he knows and who conspiring to bring down this President?

Ah, there is the rub. Let's get to the bottom of it. And at the bottom will not be President Trump. It will be the coconspirators trying to bring this government down.