

featured seven businesses, seven manufacturing plants, and had a population of 330 people.

In the 1800s, Hickory was a primary trading center along the Western North Carolina Railroad, and it grew into one of the largest hubs for business manufacturing and textiles in the Southeast United States.

Today, Hickory is home to more than 40,000 people. It holds data centers operated by the world's largest technology companies, and over 40 percent of the world's fiber optic cable is manufactured there.

Hickory's history goes even beyond its industrial roots. Some other noteworthy features are: the Hickory Motor Speedway, one of the most legendary short tracks in the history of American stock car racing; the local community college, Catawba Valley Community College, which is providing some of the most excellent education offered anywhere in the country to the citizens of the area; Lenoir-Rhyne University, one of North Carolina's premier schools, which was founded in 1891; a wonderful art center; and a Minor League Baseball team, the Hickory Crawdads, which was founded 25 years ago.

While the city continues to grow, its historical landmarks still stand as a testament to its rich history. From the Propst House to Maple Grove, Union Square to the Henry River Mill Village, Hickory's legacy as a leader in textiles manufacturing and trading is ever-present.

Hickory has played a pivotal role in North Carolina's history, and it continues to make a sizeable impact on North Carolina's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Hickory, North Carolina, and I am certain it will continue to prosper and celebrate many more significant milestones in the future.

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL NEEDS WITNESSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the impeachment of President Donald Trump has forced our Nation into a constitutional crisis.

On the one hand, Democrats have led a good faith effort to discover the truth and hold President Trump and his administration responsible for their destructive and corrupt actions in Ukraine. While on the other hand, Republicans have refused outright to meaningfully engage in the fact-finding process.

In our House, Republicans have ignored the fact that Russia has invaded Ukraine, a sovereign nation. Ukraine is a scrimmage line for liberty in Europe today, a continent whose liberty we restored and paid a deep price for it.

Despite overwhelming evidence in the Senate, Republicans have complained they have learned nothing new

from the impeachment trial. Yet, they have voted over 10 times to block new evidence and witnesses.

For instance, it is clear that President Trump's former National Security Advisor John Bolton's testimony has relevance to the Senate's efforts to find the truth—the truth. Bolton has firsthand knowledge of the administration's duplicitous actions in Ukraine and President Trump's malintent. Yet, Republicans in the Senate have refused to subpoena Bolton, despite his statement that he is willing to testify.

Additionally, this week, The New York Times reported that President Trump told his former National Security Advisor John Bolton that he wanted the \$391 million in security assistance to Ukraine frozen—a nation at war—until Ukrainian officials agreed to carry out investigations into Democrats and the Bidens.

According to a manuscript written by Bolton, such a claim is relevant and warrants immediate investigation by Congress. Yet, Politico reported today that Republican leadership in the Senate remains opposed to additional witnesses, including Bolton, though dissent is emerging in their ranks.

Mr. Speaker, I feel strongly that if the Senate fails to allow additional witnesses relevant to the impeachment trial and subsequently votes to acquit, such inaction will set a dangerous and perhaps even irreversible precedent, one that allows the executive branch to ignore congressional oversight with impunity.

Today, President Trump has refused to comply with any congressional subpoenas obstructing justice, even going a step further as to block any and intimidate executive branch officials from cooperating with the House investigation.

An executive branch unaccountable to Congress, the branch of government most connected with the American people, is a dangerous prospect. We cannot allow this to become the new norm.

Ours is a nation of laws, not men or women. Laws protect us. The balance of power between our three branches of government at the local, State, and Federal levels is the only protection we have from ourselves.

Our Founders wrote into our Constitution the means to hold a lawless President accountable and remove him from office. The rule of law is sacred, and that is why no one is above the law.

Regardless of anyone's opinions of President Trump, personal affections are not the issue. The issue at hand is independent of party or politics. The question is: Who among us will sit silent and allow the voice of the people to be trampled, and who will rise up to keep the Presidency accountable to our Republic?

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to serve alongside public servants in both parties. While I have had disagreements with Republican colleagues on

policy, I remain immensely thankful for their bipartisanship in so many ways and willingness to engage on issues to strengthen our Nation's national security and improve the lives of working people, calling many Republicans, actually, my friends.

But that is why, Mr. Speaker, I am so disappointed today. My Republican colleagues have so far failed to act in defense of our democracy. They seem to live in an alternate reality from our own.

The American people have made it clear they want additional witnesses to ensure a fair trial. They want to hear what Ambassador Bolton and other witnesses have to say. Senate Republicans should let them testify under oath.

Finally, I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the words of Dr. Daniel Rapport, a constituent and a distinguished medical doctor at the University of Toledo Medical Center, urging the Senate to convict President Trump.

His words: "The impeachment of President Trump has forced our Nation into a constitutional crisis. If the Senate fails to hold President Trump accountable, as is its constitutional duty, then a dangerous precedent will be set, one that empowers the executive branch to ignore congressional oversight with impunity.

"Combined with the increasing power of the executive in recent decades, in addition to the President's veto power, the capacity of the legislative branch to rein in the executive will be ever more limited, weakening the American's people will in their own government.

"This is an outcome that must be avoided at all costs. The Senate alone has the power to do what is right to preserve the balance of power between the legislative and executive branches. The Senate must vote to convict President Trump."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

PAIN IS THE PRICE OF AMERICA'S HEALTHCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, the \$3 trillion healthcare industry continues to crush the middle class. Americans are paying more than ever and getting ever less as they struggle to access care. The cost of care for both workers and employers is outpacing wage growth.

What drives the cost of care in America today is lack of transparency, consolidation, and overregulation that is leading to administrative glut. The time is now to confront these cost drivers. President Trump has addressed these exact issues in recent months.