

have witnesses. We are told we can't have witnesses because, after all, the House says we proved our case, as we have. So why should we need witnesses? Well, that is like saying that, in a bank robbery, the DA announces that he has proved his case. He has had all the witnesses. Then an eyewitness shows up, and he shouldn't be allowed to testify because, after all, the DA was sure he proved his case first. That is absurd, and any 10-year-old knows it is absurd.

That is the President's case against witnesses, that we have had enough. There is always more. There aren't too many more here. The fact is, when there are witnesses to be asked, they should be asked.

Second, there is only one real question in this trial. Everything else is a distraction—a three-card Monte game being played by the President's counsel—distractions. Don't look at the real question. Look at everything else. Everything else is irrelevant. Look at the whistleblower—irrelevant. Look at the House procedures—irrelevant. Look at Hunter Biden—irrelevant. Look at whether President Obama's policy was as good as or better than President Trump's policy with respect to Ukraine—irrelevant. Look at the Steele dossier—irrelevant.

There is only one relevant question: Did the President abuse his power by violating the law to withhold military aid from a foreign country and extort that country into helping him—into helping his reelection campaign—by slandering his opponent? That is the only relevant question for the trial.

The House managers have proved that question beyond any doubt.

The one thing the House managers think the President's counsel got right is quoting me as saying “beyond any doubt.” It is, indeed, beyond any doubt.

That is why all of these distractions. That is why the President's people are telling you to avoid witnesses—because they are afraid of witnesses. They know the witnesses—they know Mr. Bolton and others will only strengthen the case.

And, yes, we hear: Well, if the House managers say their case is so strong, why do you need more witnesses? Because the truth can be bolstered.

I yield back.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Thank you, counsel.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUSPEND THE RULES

In accordance with rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, Mr. Blumenthal (for himself, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Durbin) hereby gives notice in writing of his intention to move to suspend the following portions of the Rules of Procedure and Practice in the Senate When Sitting on Impeachment Trials during consideration of the question of whether it shall be in order to consider and debate under the impeachment rules any motion to subpoena witnesses or documents in connection with the impeachment trial of Donald John Trump:

(1) The phrase “without debate” in Rule VII.

(2) The following portion of Rule XX: “, unless the Senate shall direct the doors to be

closed while deliberating upon its decisions. A motion to close the doors may be acted upon without objection, or, if objection is heard, the motion shall be voted on without debate by the yeas and nays, which shall be entered on the record”.

(3) In Rule XXIV, the phrases “without debate”, “except when the doors shall be closed for deliberation, and in that case”, and “, to be had without debate”.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUSPEND THE RULES

In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I (for myself, Mr. Blumenthal, and Mr. Durbin) hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend the following portions of the Rules of Procedure and Practice in the Senate When Sitting on Impeachment Trials during the impeachment trial in the Senate of President Donald John Trump:

(1) The phrase “without debate” in Rule VII.

(2) The following portion of Rule XX: “, unless the Senate shall direct the doors to be closed while deliberating upon its decisions. A motion to close the doors may be acted upon without objection, or, if objection is heard, the motion shall be voted on without debate by the yeas and nays, which shall be entered on the record”.

(3) In Rule XXIV, the phrases “without debate”, “except when the doors shall be closed for deliberation, and in that case”, and “, to be had without debate”.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. The majority leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 1 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. Chief Justice, I ask unanimous consent that the trial adjourn until 1 p.m. Friday, January 31.

There being no objection, at 10:40 p.m., the Senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment, adjourned until Friday, January 31, 2020, at 1 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will come to order.

The Senate will now resume legislative session.

THE JOURNAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

TRANSMITTING DESIGNATION OF FUNDING AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA-AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT—PM 42

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying papers; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 904 of title IX of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (H.R. 5430; the “Act”), I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 29, 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3201. An act to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2153. An act to support empowerment, economic security, and educational opportunities for adolescent girls around the world, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3621. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to remove adverse information for certain defaulted or delinquent private education loan borrowers who demonstrate a history of loan repayment, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4331. An act to modify and reauthorize the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5338. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to pursue public-private partnerships, innovative financing mechanisms, research partnerships, and coordination with international and multilateral organizations to address childhood cancer globally, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 86. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 550) to award a Congressional Gold