

this very day. *Brown v. Board of Education* has made a difference in my life and in the lives of many others.

I am so grateful that President Eisenhower—who was reluctant, who was not a fan of *Brown v. Board of Education*, who didn't really want to deal with the great racial issues of his time. I am glad that he did not defy the court. There are things that he could have done to prevent *Brown* from being fully realized. Quite frankly, it has not been fully realized to this day.

A President who defies court orders is the greatest threat to American democracy because that President has the ability to not only defy court orders but in so doing to become the final arbiter of what the law is. That President assumes an inordinate amount of power.

That President will destroy what we know as the three branches of government, because that President will no longer recognize the judiciary and what the judiciary has been allowed to do since *Marbury v. Madison*. That President, Mr. Speaker, will become a person who is not only above the law, but that President will become the law, if we allow a President to defy court orders.

What we must do to prevent this? We can prevent a President from defying court orders with impeachment, impeachment in two senses of the word.

One, it can act as a deterrent. The other is it can act as a means of removal. If a President defies a court order, we can remove him, but let's not go there just now. Let's talk about deterrence.

I learned from the last time I engaged in this impeachment process of the value of deterrence, impeachment as a deterrent.

Here is how it works. If a President believes that he will be impeached for defying a court order, because he will in effect become the law of the land, we will no longer be a land where laws govern but a land where a man governs or a woman governs, a person governs.

We are a land of laws, and we want to remain such. If a President defies a court order and if he knows this, that we can deter him or we can impeach him, he can opt to take advantage of the warning of deterrence. This is what I learned.

This President or any President can be deterred if the President believes that impeachment is a remedy. If the President does not believe that impeachment is a remedy, then he can go on and defy the court's orders.

If he believes that impeachment is there as a possible remedy, then he will not.

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I say it can be a deterrence. I say it can be a deterrence if the President believes that we will impeach. I believe that if a President knows that we will impeach, then he may back off, and he may back down.

I believe that this President knows that I will bring Articles of Impeach-

ment against him. He knows that I have no fear of him as many others do.

I believe he understands that those who fear him will cower. They are pusillanimous. I am not a pusillanimous politician. I will not kneel; I will not bend; and I will not break. I will stand for liberty and justice for all.

Mr. President, you know that if you cross the line and if you defy court orders, then there is one Member of Congress who has pledged to bring Articles of Impeachment against you.

Let that deter you, Mr. President. Don't go forward, Mr. President. Don't believe what the Vice President is telling you about defiance of court orders. Don't believe those around you who are trying to convince you that you can do this with impunity.

Mr. President, you have been made immune to some laws, but you are not immune to impeachment. Impeachment is the final straw that can break the back of the camel who happens to decide that he is going to continue with his ruthless, reckless orders and defy even the courts of this country.

No President—no President—should ever defy court orders because, at that point, that President becomes a dictator. We in this country have decided that we have a republic, and we want to keep it. If we are going to keep this Republic, then we must use impeachment as a deterrence, which means that this President has to know that it is there for him and that we will use it against him, impeachment as a deterrence.

Now, let's move to impeachment as a form of removal. If a President defies a court order or court orders, then that President has committed an impeachable act. It is an impeachable act to defy your oath of office to execute the laws, to honor the laws of the United States, and to protect the Constitution. You are charged with the responsibility of defending the Constitution.

If you do this, Mr. President, then you will now have committed an impeachable act. The question is not whether you will be impeached by way of a resolution being presented and not whether a resolution will be presented because you know that I am going to present that resolution. I am telling you now that I will present the resolution.

If you defy court orders, then I will present resolutions to impeach you. I will present the resolution.

Now, the question is: Will the Congress act? What will the Congress do? I believe that even some of the most conservative Members of Congress will recognize that we don't want a dictatorship and that if we don't act, then we will have a dictatorship. The consequences of our inaction and the consequences of our failure to impeach and convict would be a dictatorship.

I don't believe that the Congress of the United States of America and I don't believe that the Senate of the United States of America will stand by and watch a dictatorship develop while they are in office.

This is our watch. I don't believe that, on our watch, we have such persons who are going to simply stand by. There may be some, but I believe there will be enough to impeach, and I believe there will be enough to convict. That is because no one in this country, I believe, wants a dictatorship. If there are some who want it, then you don't know what you are asking for.

Mr. Speaker, this is an alarm. I am warning our country. I want you to know that we are this close to a dictatorship because we have a President who is seriously considering, it seems, disobeying court orders.

That is the line. That is the line in the dirt. That is the Rubicon. If you cross this line in the dirt, you will have moved into the area of impeachment, and I assure you, Articles of Impeachment will be brought against you.

Mr. President, you are a Goliath. You have been made to be above the law in certain cases. You are a Goliath. There is nothing on the planet like you, it seems, because you happen to be armed with the nuclear weapons that are capable of changing life on Earth as we know it or obliterating all life on Earth. You are armed with the mightiest Army.

You are armed, Mr. President, and you are dangerous if you decide you are going to move forward and deny court orders. You are a Goliath, but I will let you know now, Mr. President, that there are Davids among us. There are Davids, Mr. President. There are 435 Davids.

The question is, will these Davids use their slings to bring you down with impeachment?

That is the only question. I believe the Davids among us will do this. I believe that there is a majority on a given day when impeachment is brought who will vote to impeach. These are the Davids that will save this country. They will preserve the Republic. They will continue to have the justice that we understand we should have through the courts. They are the persons who are on watch, and they understand that this is their watch, Mr. Speaker.

I would pray that the President would not move forward. I would pray that he will back down from his notion of defying court orders. I also know that if he does, the Davids of the Congress of the United States of America will bring him down.

Mr. Speaker, I am one of those Davids.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House

stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 14, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-430. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 25-717, "Harmonious Living Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-431. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 25-718, "Downtown Arena Revitalization Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-432. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 25-719, "Restoration of Covenanted Roads and Alleys by the District Government Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-433. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 25-720, "Recidivism Reduction at DYRS Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. COMER:

H.R. 1276. A bill to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. AMO (for himself, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 1277. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AMODEI of Nevada (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. MCCORMICK):

H.R. 1278. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and

Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H.R. 1279. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a community engagement requirement for certain individuals under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 1280. A bill to require the head of each Executive agency to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to the headquarters of the Executive agency to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 1281. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify standards for water heaters, furnaces, boilers, and kitchen cooktops, ranges, and ovens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 1282. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for institutions of higher education that carry out diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 1283. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit child pornography produced using artificial intelligence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. PALMER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. CAREY):

H.R. 1284. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase civil penalties for, and improve enforcement with respect to, customs fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOST (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 1285. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to establish payment and performance security requirements for projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRESNAHAN (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BOST, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. HARDER of California):

H.R. 1286. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of forms that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1287. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that dependent children under the age of 26 are eligible for coverage under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms.

BUDZINSKI, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 1288. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 1289. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a pilot program to administer to eligible veterans medically-tailored meals and groceries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

H.R. 1290. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which the Department of Veterans Affairs refers veterans experiencing mental health crises to approved non-Department mental health care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 1291. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that nonanimal methods are prioritized, where applicable and feasible, in proposals for all research to be conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health, to provide for the establishment of the National Center for Alternatives to Animals in Research and Testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 1292. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the maximum penalty for mail theft; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 1293. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives and fees for increasing motor vehicle fuel economy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 1294. A bill to pilot the use of image technician positions in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. COMER (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. JACK, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. CRANE, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H.R. 1295. A bill to amend chapter 9 of title 5, United States Code, to reauthorize the executive reorganization authority of the President and to ensure efficient executive reorganization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms.