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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION SHOULD INVESTIGATE ILLEGAL INSIDER TRADING BY CARL ICAHN

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I wrote a letter to Jay Clayton, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, asking him about this guy.

This is Carl Icahn, the billionaire, financier, and buddy of our President Donald Trump.

It seems that he had a massive amount of stock in a company that sells cranes and equipment, which, in case you didn't know, are made of a lot of steel. Then all of a sudden, Mr. Icahn sold his position in the crane and equipment maker; and 1 week later, his friend, buddy, pal, and fellow billionaire, Donald Trump, announced he was proposing import tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Now, we all know what happens to the stock of companies heavily dependent on steel and aluminum when the President announces he will impose

new tariffs. Their stock prices go down a lot.

So I guess you could say that Carl Icahn was lucky to unload his shares, valued at, at least, \$31 million, just before the President made his announcement, but I suspect that luck had nothing to do with it.

Here is a Trump insider making a gigantic decision on tens of millions of dollars, and we are just supposed to believe it is a coincidence.

Sorry, but I am not buying it.

So I wrote the chairman of the SEC to request that he investigate. I have not heard back from him, but I hope after he hears this speech, he might have a change of mind.

In the letter, I said: "The announcement of tariffs on the heels of Mr. Icahn's stock sale is highly suspicious. The close relationship between the President and Mr. Icahn adds to the appearance of wrongdoing."

So I think the SEC has an obligation to investigate, because it looks bad. We are talking about the President of the United States, and the people have a right to know that things are on the up and up.

Let's remember that Mr. Icahn left as an adviser to Trump at the White House because, we are told, it would raise difficult conflicts of interest, and presumably, just like the President, Mr. Icahn was not interested in selling off part of his empire just so he could appear impartial and demonstrate core integrity to the American people.

The President, who many of us think is profiting illegally from the office—and we have filed Articles of Impeachment because of it—seems to attract a lot of people with deep pockets and shallow reserves of judgment to his side.

Mr. Icahn, who was a notorious corporate raider and vulture capitalist during the Clinton boom years of the 1990s, appears to me and a lot of others to fit this mold.

If there is nothing to hide in this deal, then the investigation will be quick and that will be that, but simply saying this multimillion-dollar stroke of luck was just a coincidence is not flying; not with me, anyway.

Do you know the rigorous reporting of assets that we as House Members have to do to fully disclose our debts and investments?

And all those disclosures are available to the public, and the press goes over them with a fine-tooth comb. Every time a Member of Congress buys or sells a security over \$1,000, we have to file a form, and then that gets shared with the public. And if we are late with the filing of the paperwork, we have to pay a fine.

This may seem burdensome, but the important goal here is transparency and to ensure that Members are not using insider information they have access to to personally enrich themselves.

If I was as lucky as Carl Icahn to make a stock trade that my friend had the power to tell me the inside information on and it resulted in me making millions of dollars or avoiding losing millions of dollars, well, let's see, there would be investigative reporters, hearings, an Ethics Committee report, maybe even criminal charges. But for Mr. Icahn and his buddy, the President, nothing; at least not yet.

Let's demand that the friends who circle the White House and the Trump businesses provide the American people with answers and transparency. That is all we ask so that we can have greater confidence in our President and his family that they are not running a kleptocracy like we see in Russia, where those who govern are simply governing to make money.

Mr. Speaker, no tax returns; very little in the way of disclosure; recusals that don't seem to actually be recusals; hotel and business conflicts of interest; and the strong odor of something fishy;

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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those close to the President who are making millions, apparently because of the proximity to the President; those people demand scrutiny from watchdog agencies; and, in this case, it requires an investigation of Carl Icahn by the SEC.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter to the Honorable Jay Clayton, the chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, of last week.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 8, 2018.

Hon. JAY CLAYTON,  
Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: I write to request that you and your agency immediately investigate possible illegal insider trading by Mr. Carl Icahn, a longtime friend of President Donald Trump, who according to his SEC filings sold \$31.3 million worth of stock in a company heavily dependent on steel just days before the President announced plans to impose import tariffs on steel and aluminum.

According to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings submitted in February, Mr. Icahn disclosed that he sold nearly 1 million shares of Manitowoc Company, Inc., which is heavily dependent on steel to manufacture cranes and lifts. Approximately seven days later, his good friend President Trump announced plans to impose steep tariffs on steel imports. On that news, Manitowoc stock plunged and lost 6% of its value, but Mr. Icahn had already cashed out.

The announcement of tariffs on the heels of Mr. Icahn's stock sale is highly suspicious. The close relationship between the President and Mr. Icahn adds to the appearance of wrongdoing. This is also not the first time Mr. Icahn has been suspected of using his relationship with the President for his personal benefit. It was widely reported that Mr. Icahn stepped down from his role as "special adviser" to the President because of potential conflicts of interest.

As a member of the House of Representatives I am required to report my assets and liabilities yearly and to report within 30 days of a transaction any securities I buy or sell. The purpose of these rules is to ensure transparency and to help prevent personal profiteering from insider information that Members of Congress may have access to while serving. In other words, if I were to dump a stock a week before Congress took action that would impact that stock's price, I would most certainly be investigated resulting in possible sanctions, removal from office or jail time.

It is hard to believe Mr. Icahn's actions with regard to unloading voluminous shares of Manitowoc stock right before the President's is just a coincidence. It undoubtedly warrants a federal investigation. Thank you for your attention in this matter and I look forward to your agency taking swift action and your response to this request. To contact me about this request, please call me at my Washington DC office.

Sincerely,

LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ,  
Member of Congress.

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

## WE SHOULD DEBATE A NEW AUMF REGARDING AMERICAN TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago, BARBARA LEE and TOM COLE sent a letter to the Speaker of the House that was signed by 100 Members of Congress, including myself, asking the Speaker to authorize the committees of jurisdiction to bring an AUMF—that is an Authorization for Use of Military Force—so that we can have a debate.

The last time we had a policy debate on Afghanistan was 2001, 17 years ago.

I have been on the floor for the last 5 years because I am frustrated that we can't get a debate. It is our constitutional duty. And our young men and women are around the world in different locations, half we don't even know about, yet we can't debate an issue of war when young men and women go and die for this country.

That 5 years included calling on John Boehner to authorize an AUMF. Now we are calling on PAUL RYAN. I think my name has been on 15 letters going back to the days of John Boehner.

In the 17 years, we have spent over \$1 trillion, over 2,300 Americans have died, and over 20,000 wounded; yet we in Congress are not meeting our constitutional responsibility.

I have Camp Lejeune in my district. I have talked to many Active Duty marines who have been there five, six, seven times. It is so chaotic now, that the Russians are working with Karzai and trying to get back in with the Taliban.

It is a no-win situation. It is time to have a debate and let Members vote whether they want to stay or come home.

Mr. Speaker, to make things worse than ever, on February 15, Pamela Constable wrote an article in The Washington Post titled, "Taliban appeals to American people to 'rationally' rethink war effort."

They are our enemy, but it is not bad advice, to be honest with you.

Pamela Constable mentions many portions of a longer letter written by the Taliban to the United States. I have a copy of this article and I read it yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the article written by Pamela Constable.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 14, 2018]

TALIBAN APPEALS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE TO  
'RATIONALLY' RETHINK WAR EFFORT

(By Pamela Constable)

KABUL.—Taliban insurgents on Wednesday issued an extraordinary, 17,000-word appeal to the "American people," asking them to pressure U.S. officials to end the 16-year-old conflict in Afghanistan and asserting that the protracted American "occupation" had brought only death, corruption and drugs to the impoverished country.

The letter, whose authenticity was confirmed by a brief telephone conversation

with insurgent spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid, was primarily aimed at a U.S. audience. Unlike previous statements issued by the Taliban, it used statistics and logical arguments—not just ideological harangues—to convince Americans that their government's investment in the war has been a dire mistake.

"Prolonging the war in Afghanistan and maintaining American troop presence is neither beneficial for America nor for anyone else," the document said, calling on U.S. citizens, legislators and others to "read this letter prudently" and evaluate the costs and benefits of continuing to fight. "Stubbornly seeking the protraction of this war;" it added, "will have 'dreadful consequences' for the region and the 'stability of America herself.'"

The letter, sent under the banner of "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan," was issued just weeks after a blitz of deadly insurgent attacks in the Afghan capital have left the government struggling to cope with increased public anxiety and anger. It also came as the Trump administration is ramping up a new military strategy, involving thousands of additional troops, to expand the Afghan security forces and train them to defend their country independently.

While insisting that "our preference is to solve the Afghan issue through peaceful dialogues," the letter also warned that Taliban forces "cannot be subdued by sheer force" and that seeking a peaceful solution does not mean "that we are exhausted or our will has been sapped."

This combination of outreach and threat has been a hallmark of Taliban statements, including a shorter one issued shortly after the spate of attacks last month that killed more than 150 people in urban population centers. The insurgent group has said it would not revive peace talks unless foreign troops leave the country, and it has rejected feelers from the administration of President Ashraf Ghani.

A spokesman for Ghani, Shah Hussain Murtazawi, responded sharply to the letter, saying, "We never negotiate with groups who resort to crime and the brutal killing of people and then claim responsibility for it. The door of peace is shut to them, but the door of peace is open to those groups who have expressed their hatred for such crimes."

The letter's talking points included a list of goals that the U.S. government had set out to achieve in entering the war, including eliminating terrorism, establishing the rule of law and eradicating drugs. It then systematically presented arguments, backed up with international statistics but also exaggerated for effect, to show that these efforts had failed or had extremely negative consequences.

"As confirmed by your own military authorities, 3546 American and foreign soldiers have been killed, more than 20,000 American forces injured and tens of thousands more are suffering mentally," the letter said, asserting that the actual casualty figures were much higher but were being "concealed" by U.S. leaders. The casualty figures track with those provided by the U.S. military.

A second argument said reports by the U.S. Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction estimated that "sixty percent of Afghan territory is now under the control of Taliban." The figure is actually much lower, but the inspector general and other agencies have said that insurgents control or influence more territory than at any previous time in the war and that the area continues to widen.

The letter also said that there had been 751 U.S. airstrikes in September, which appears to be an accurate figure. "You should ask your generals that despite using such force,