

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted against this legislation. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 217.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I missed votes Tuesday, May 14, through Friday, May 17. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call Vote Number 203 (Passage of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 204 (Passage of H.R. 2379): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 205 (Ordering the Previous Question): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 206 (Passage of H. Res. 377): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 207 (Passage of H.R. 312, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 208 (Passage of H.R. 375): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 209 (Passage of H.R. 1892, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 210 (Passage of H. AMDT. 221 to H.R. 987 offered by Rep. DAVID MCKINLEY): "no"; Roll Call Vote Number 211 (Passage of H. AMDT. 225 to H.R. 987 offered by Rep. JOSH HARDER): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 212 (Passage of H. AMDT. 240 to H.R. 987 offered by Rep. JENNIFER WEXTON): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 213 (Adoption of Motion to Recommit to H.R. 987): "no"; Roll Call Vote Number 214 (Passage of H.R. 987, the Marketing and Outreach Restoration to Empower Health Education Act of 2019 or MORE Health Education Act): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 215 (Approval of the Journal): "yes"; Roll Call Vote Number 216 (Adoption of Motion to Recommit to H.R. 5): "no"; and Roll Call Vote Number 217 (H.R. 5, the Equality Act): "yes".

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE
RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article from The Washington Post regarding consideration of H.R. 312.

[From the Washington Post, May 13, 2019]

A RIDDLE IN NEW ENGLAND: A CASINO, 321 ACRES OF INDIAN TRIBAL LAND AND A PRESIDENTIAL TWEET

(By Marc Fisher)

Between a boast about bringing jobs to Ohio and a statement of sympathy for vic-

tims of a school shooting in Colorado, President Trump last week found time to tweet about an obscure House bill that would assure a Massachusetts Indian tribe control of 321 acres of land it wants to use for a gambling casino.

The president was against the bill, he wrote, because it was "unfair and doesn't treat Native Americans equally!"

Presidents don't usually get involved in local tiffs over a planned 900-room casino hotel. And even though this president has a four-decade-long record of slamming American Indian casinos as scams that pose unfair competition to other gambling enterprises, notably his own, Trump's decision to weigh in on a measure that had strong bipartisan support seemed unusual for a chief executive who doesn't like to be bothered with the little stuff.

But a closer look at House Bill 312 and the favor it would do for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reveals a sprawling network of Trump-related interests, from the National Enquirer to a Rhode Island casino company—a small but strikingly intricate example of the ways this president's business dealings, personal bonds and political alliances can complicate and color the ordinary doings of government.

On the surface, the matter is a simple dispute over who wants a casino and who doesn't. The Mashpee Tribe seeks to build a casino in southeastern Massachusetts. If the federal government decreed the land to be the tribe's sovereign property, the casino would be exempt from many taxes.

But some residents of the town where the casino would be built sued over the project, and after the tribe broke ground, a federal judge sided with the residents, ruling that, because of the history of that parcel of land, the feds didn't have the authority to guarantee it to the tribe.

So far, no Trump connection. But the tribe's site is about 18 miles from Rhode Island, and that state's politicians aren't keen to have a new competitor go up against their two casinos, both of which are run by Twin River Worldwide Holdings, a public company with strong Trump ties.

Twin River's president, George Papanier, was a finance executive at the Trump Plaza casino hotel in Atlantic City earlier in his career, and Twin River's chief marketing officer, Phil Juliano, also lists experience at a Trump casino on his résumé.

For decades, Trump, whose Atlantic City casinos were his first big venture outside New York—they became some of his biggest failures when they suffered bankruptcies in the early 1990s—has spoken of casinos built by Indian tribes as fraudulent ventures: "the biggest scandal ever," he said.

In 1993, concerned about competition from the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut, Trump urged a House committee on native affairs to investigate whether members of the tribe that operates that resort were really Native Americans.

"They don't look like Indians to me," Trump said. In an earlier interview, he opined that "I might have more Indian blood than a lot of the so-called Indians that are trying to open up the reservations" to gambling.

In 2000, when New York state considered expanding Indian casinos in the Catskill Mountains north of New York City, Trump, working through his longtime ally Roger Stone, funded a group that paid for TV and print ads accusing prominent members of the Mohawk Indian tribe of having mob connections and criminal records. Trump and Stone failed to report their spending on the ads as lobbying, as the state required, and state regulators imposed their largest-ever civil penalty, \$250,000, on Trump, who was forced to issue a public apology.

But Trump has not always opposed Indian casinos. In 1997, he cut a deal with another Connecticut tribe, the Paucatuck Indians, who agreed to pay him a management fee in exchange for his efforts to win the tribe the federal recognition it needed to open a casino.

In the Mashpee case, Twin River, the operator of the two Rhode Island casinos, has hired Matthew Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union and a vocal Trump supporter, to lobby for it on the land issue. Schlapp's wife, Mercedes, is director of strategic communications at the White House.

Matthew Schlapp said last week that his wife played "no role in my advocacy" and that he lobbied against the casino because it was a "terrible idea."

The lobbyist apparently focused Trump's attention on the casino bill by connecting it to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who is seeking her party's presidential nomination and has been for years a favorite target of Trump's because of her since-retracted claim to be Native American. But there is no Senate version of the House bill, which the House is scheduled to vote on this week, and Warren has made no statement on the casino project.

Twin River has paid Schlapp's company, Cove Strategies, \$30,000 this year, according to federal records. Another lobbyist, Black Diamond Strategies, also got \$30,000 from the casino firm to work on the Mashpee case, records show. One of Black Diamond's lobbyists working for Twin River, Doug Davenport, was a delegate strategist for Trump's 2016 campaign and formerly worked for ex-Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort's lobbying company, where he handled public affairs for clients including Trump.

As a candidate, Trump repeatedly promised to "drain the swamp," describing Washington as a den of elite thieves—politicians, lawyers, lobbyists, domineering corporations—whose interlocking interests were more powerful than any political party or ideological allegiance.

But as president, Trump has embraced the very structures he railed against in the 2016 campaign, for example picking more than 350 former lobbyists to serve in his administration, most in agencies that they used to lobby.

Spokesmen for the White House and Twin River did not respond to requests for comment.

The intersections between Trump and entities involved with Twin River can be complex.

Among Twin River's major investors is a \$4 billion New Jersey-based hedge fund called Chatham Asset Management and its founder, Anthony Melchiorre, according to SEC records. Chatham also owned about 80 percent of American Media Inc., the publisher of the National Enquirer, the supermarket tabloid that took payments from Trump's longtime lawyer and fixer, Michael Cohen, to make certain that no stories were published about two women's allegations that they had affairs with Trump.

A spokesman for Chatham declined to speak on the record about Twin River's involvement in the Mashpee Indian matter, but Chatham and Twin River have been embroiled in a lawsuit in Delaware, where Chatham accused top executives at the casino company of self-dealing and "placing their personal financial interests above those of Twin River's stockholders." Twin River has denied the allegations.

David Pecker, American Media's chief executive and a longtime ally of Trump's, has said that Chatham saved his company from financial collapse. Pecker last fall signed an agreement to cooperate with federal prosecutors in New York who were investigating the

payments made to Trump's accusers. As part of the agreement, Pecker and the Enquirer's chief content officer, Dylan Howard, admitted to paying the women to "influence the election."

According to the company's website, AMI's four-person board of directors consists of Pecker, two Chatham executives and a former chief financial officer of Trump Entertainment Resorts, David R. Hughes.

American Media agreed last month to sell the Enquirer to the chief executive of Hudson News, a chain of airport newsstands, for \$100 million. The sale was prompted by Melchiorre's unhappiness with the Enquirer's actions on Trump's behalf, including the so-called "catch and kill" gambit in which the tabloid bought the two accusers' stories and then published nothing about them, and the Enquirer's exposé an extramarital affair conducted by Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos, who also owns The Washington Post.

American Media's board and Melchiorre "didn't want to deal with hassles like this anymore," according to an individual familiar with the board's deliberations who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private talks.

That individual said Trump "has been somewhat estranged from Pecker" since the Enquirer executive began talking to federal prosecutors.

HONORING MICHELLE VANCE

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michelle Vance, who will be leaving as District Manager of the Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District after more than 10 years of service to the community of Tehachapi, California, which I represent.

Michelle earned her Bachelor of Science at California State University, Bakersfield, in Public Policy Administration. After obtaining her degree, Michelle worked as the Executive Director of Main Street Tehachapi, a business advocacy group focused on creating a friendlier environment for Tehachapi's businesses, while recruiting new businesses to open up in the city. She then served as a Field Representative for the 2nd Supervisorial District for the County of Kern, where she acted as a liaison between the people of Tehachapi and the County Board of Supervisors. Her next job, Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Tehachapi, combined her experiences working for the County and the nonprofit world. During her time in Tehachapi, Michelle helped bring new businesses into the region and focused on revitalizing the downtown core, as well as the Greater Tehachapi Area. And most recently as Direct Manager, spearheaded the Tehachapi Gran Fondo, a hundred-mile bike ride through the mountains of Tehachapi, something our community is very proud of.

Michelle always fought for the people of Tehachapi and will be remembered throughout the community as someone who stood up for their economic interests and helped make our community the thriving, robust, and vibrant place it is today. Michelle will be remembered in Tehachapi for her tireless work ethic, her can-do attitude, and her fervent belief in the

community she called home. As Michelle starts a new chapter in her life, I want to thank her for her service on behalf of the 23rd District of California, and wish her well in all future endeavors.

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB, AND MALARIA

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, as a member of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I rise regarding today's full Appropriations Committee action on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Fiscal Year 2020 funding bill.

This bill provides vital resources and programs supporting American and global interests around the world. As you know, the United States is a leader in global health, and it is important that we remain engaged and not become complacent, especially as life-threatening diseases begin to advance and mutate.

The State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill funds several health-related foreign policies that provide assistance, along with our partners, to eradicate deadly and preventable diseases worldwide.

The Global Fund is one of these critical programs funded in this bill. As one of the world's most effective health organizations, it has delivered real results combatting deadly diseases, saving over 27 million lives since its conception. The Global Fund partnership invests billions of dollars annually to support programs fighting AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria around the world.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, due to policies unrelated to the Global Fund, I was unable to support this funding bill in its entirety during last week's Committee consideration. However, I would like to express the importance of the United States' participation in this partnership, and the clear signal to the rest of the world that the United States will continue to lead with its commitment to the Global Fund.

I remain committed to working with my colleagues to find an agreement with the Senate and the Administration on the overall Fiscal Year 2020 funding level. Without an agreement, the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process will continue to have a difficult path towards funding the government.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol to come together and work towards a common goal of getting to an agreement for the overall funding amount for Fiscal Year 2020.

POLICE WEEK/OPERATION SMACK DRAGON

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, our local law enforcement stand in the gap between our families and danger.

Every day, they choose to put the safety of our communities above their own.

This National Law Enforcement Week, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the many police officers in my district and across our country who protect our families.

In Tulsa, just this week, local police caught and arrested 24 individuals in connection to a drug trafficking cartel from Mexico. Operation Smack Dragon made 73 indictments against 29 individuals, seized 3 kilograms of heroin, and \$150,000 in drug money.

Several of the arrested individuals were in the country illegally.

Along with the community of Tulsa, I am so thankful for the officers who put themselves in danger to keep our people safe.

It is perhaps more dangerous to be a police officer today than at any other period in history and congressional inaction on key issues has resulted in increased burdens on the police force.

I stand with our law enforcement officers today and every day.

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article from The Washington Examiner regarding consideration of H.R. 312.

[From the Washington Examiner, May 13, 2019]

HOUSE DEMOCRATS RESCHEDULE VOTES ON TRIBAL BILLS PULLED AFTER TRUMP TWEET (By Naomi Lim)

House Democrats have rescheduled votes on two Native American tribal bills this week after they were yanked from the floor at the last minute following pressure from President Trump.

Democratic leadership has set a vote for Wednesday on H.R. 312, legislation co-sponsored by Rep. William Keating, D-Mass., maintaining the status of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation in the Bay State.

A second proposal, H.R. 375, introduced by Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., would reaffirm Interior Secretary David Bernhardt's authority to take land into trust on behalf of Indian tribes. That measure is also due to be considered Wednesday, but under a streamlined process requiring two-thirds support in the House. As such, it needs the backing of House Republicans.

"Both of the bills pulled from the floor of the House, H.R. 375 and H.R. 312, are important to Indian Country," Cole told the Washington Examiner in a statement on Monday. "I support both of the bills and look forward to working with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to pass them on the floor. I believe we will be successful in doing so."

But GOP lawmakers like Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., have said they will not help the legislation pass the chamber. A spokeswoman for Gosar told the Washington Examiner on Monday her boss, who sits on the House Natural Resources Committee with Cole, was "strongly opposed" to the proposals and would vote against them "in their current form."