

back to our communities in mid and northern Michigan.

I have also been a strong advocate for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and for funding the construction of a new lock at the Soo Locks.

Yet these priorities are now funded under a temporary stopgap, and after weeks of delays caused by Senate Democrats who want to renegotiate, we now face the prospect of an impeachment trial that will bog down activity in the Senate even further in the future.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CHARADE

(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, since November 9, 2016, Democrats have been calling for the removal of President Trump.

Even before he took office, they have been protesting the results of the election and have sought to delegitimize his historic win in battleground States like Michigan.

Breaking with historical precedent, House Democrat leadership will not hold a vote on this extremely consequential matter. House Democrats have created a toxic work environment, resulting in nothing getting done, no good policy or law created, no regular order.

This is a politically motivated charade attempting to undermine and diminish the effectiveness of a duly elected President and his administration based on bias, prejudice, and disgraceful politics.

The people of the First District of Michigan sent me here to work with others to get things done and represent the people with honor and integrity. I am sure my 434 colleagues were sent here with the same mission.

It is high time to get back to real work.

SHAM IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the sham impeachment process being run out of this esteemed House.

As House Democrats continue to pursue politically motivated attacks on President Trump, it is alarming that their leaders are withholding evidence and facts from elected Members of our Congress.

Last week, I sent letters to the chairs of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inform them of my intent as an elected Member of the 116th Congress to review documents and records in possession of

their committees. We must be allowed to do our jobs.

The fair choice is clear. We cannot allow House Democrats to continue issuing political attacks behind the safety of clandestine, closed doors.

Madam Speaker, I stand for transparency and I stand for accountability. I stand for fairness. It is time for this body to restore its integrity.

CLOAK-AND-DAGGER IMPEACHMENT

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, this cloak-and-dagger impeachment process is unprecedented, uncalled for, and unfair to the American people.

When I, a Member of Congress, am turned away from reading testimony from Chairman SCHIFF's closed-door hearings, how can I keep informed on a narrative that is constantly changing?

How are we supposed to know all the facts when the Intelligence Committee is selectively leaking information to the press, creating a biased narrative while shrouding the truth in darkness?

Will we ever get information before there is a vote on impeachment, or will the Speaker continue allowing secret hearings and inquiries to drag on?

These are questions every American should be asking.

Impeachment undoes an election and is the most serious tool Congress can use. We should treat it as such. Instead, we have seen Democrats calling for it since before President Trump was even inaugurated.

One of my Democrat colleagues recently said: If President Trump isn't guilty, he needs to prove it.

That is not how America works. It is the Speaker's responsibility to lay out the evidence in an open, transparent way so we can debate it and vote on it.

IMPEACHING WITH A VENGEANCE

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, today the Democratic majority is not judging the President with fairness, but impeaching him with a vengeance.

In the investigation of the President, fundamental principles which Americans hold dear, privacy, fairness, checks and balances, have been seriously violated, and why? Because we are here today because the Democrats in the House are paralyzed with hatred of President Trump, and until the Democrats free themselves of this hatred, our country will suffer.

Now, if that sounds familiar, you have got a longer memory than the Democrats. Those same comments, but addressing Republicans' actions towards President Clinton, were made by NANCY PELOSI in 1998.

Could there be a clearer indication of the hypocrisy that fuels the Demo-

cratic sham impeachment process currently taking place behind closed doors?

If Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats truly care about, in PELOSI's own words, "the fundamental principles which Americans hold dear, privacy, fairness, checks and balances," they will restore transparency and integrity to this process.

IMPEACHMENT SAD ACT OF POLITICAL THEATER

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, time and again my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have made it clear that this impeachment process is nothing but a sad act of political theater.

The impeachment of a President, the attempt to insert the U.S. Congress between the American people and the President they elected 3 years ago, the attempts by this House leadership to prevent the American people from making their choice in the election next November, this is a serious matter and must not be abused as a tool for partisan gain or advantage in the next election.

I have witnessed Democrats on the Judiciary Committee, as a proud member of that committee, repeatedly fail to find evidence to support a case for impeaching this President.

Now, in the realization of this fact and at the expense of fundamental fairness and due process, the Speaker has removed any further investigation from the Judiciary Committee so that impeachment can be conducted in secret and out of public view—no vote to proceed, no public hearings, no access to testimony, no ability to call witnesses.

This is a sham, and the American people won't have it any longer.

IMPEACHMENT IN THE SHADOWS

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, the Democrats continue to investigate the President in secret back rooms of the Capitol in the Intelligence Committee.

If the Speaker believes that the Members of Congress can ultimately vote and impeach the President based on bogus evidence that has never seen the light of day, then she is badly mistaken.

In the past 50 years, this body has held impeachment proceedings for only two Presidents: One was a Democrat; one was a Republican. Those were serious times when both parties came together to conduct solemn business required under the Constitution, a document that we as Members of Congress are sworn to uphold.

Conducting this impeachment process in the shadows is a mockery of the

democratic process. It actually belittles our duty, and it belittles the votes of people who duly elected this President.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I call on Speaker PELOSI to sit down with the Republican leadership to establish an open and transparent process based on precedent.

IMPEACHMENT SHAM

(Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, Republican or Democrat, we can all agree on this: When you have been accused of something, you have the right to publicly defend yourself.

My colleagues across the aisle are making heinous accusations about President Trump but are refusing to give him a voice in the process to defend himself.

Any impeachment proceeding in the history of our country has operated with full transparency and with a bipartisan effort, but that is not what is happening here.

Subpoenas are flying right and left without any consultation of the minority. Interrogations and hearings are happening in secret.

Why isn't the media demanding to be in the room instead of waiting for individuals to come out and get cherry-picked information?

The American people deserve better.

If they had solid evidence or even a factual basis for impeachment, they would be shouting it from the rooftops and broadcasting it on every screen in America.

This is a sham process. It makes a mockery of our government.

We must end this illegitimate inquiry and return to the rules and traditions that have governed this body for the last 232 years.

SO-CALLED IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

(Mr. NORMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I came to Congress to vote on legislation and basically go to work. What have we done for the last couple of weeks? Nothing.

Instead of concentrating on things that matter to this country, their intent is to reverse the election in 2016 of President Donald Trump.

In America, when you commit a crime, you get the evidence and then you have a verdict. What the Democrats, NANCY PELOSI and ADAM SCHIFF, are doing now, they have got the verdict. They are trying to get evidence, and then they are going to try to fish for a crime.

Madam Speaker, the public deserves better than this. We are better than

this. And this sham process, as has been done in the Soviet Union, should not be done in the Halls of Congress.

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PUTTING PARTISAN POLITICS OVER THE GOOD OF OUR NATION

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support President Donald J. Trump.

The Democrats' entire impeachment process has been a sham since day one. The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, who was in charge of leading the inquiry, has lied to the American people.

Chairman SCHIFF made up his own version of the President's call with Ukraine. He lied about his dealings with the whistleblower and has misled the country about the Trump campaign and Russia for years.

Unfortunately, House Democrats again put partisan politics over the good of our Nation last night by blocking a vote to censure and condemn ADAM SCHIFF. The chairman in charge of this ridiculous impeachment inquiry must be held accountable for blatantly misleading the American people.

We have all seen the transcript of the call between President Trump and the President of Ukraine. There was nothing there. So my Democratic colleagues are left with making up their own stories and seeing what people will believe.

Democrats won't even allow noncommittee members to attend depositions and interviews, nor will they specify their authority to do so.

Madam Speaker, our country deserves better.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON IN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE?

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, the American people are asking: What in the world is going on in the people's House? But it is easy to see when you hear the words from Mr. GREEN from Texas, who said: "If we don't impeach this President, he will get reelected."

That has led to closed-door hearings, secret depositions, and a parity by a committee chairman. Nothing good happens in the dark behind closed doors. In fact, the German people knew this after reunification at the end of World War II.

At the end of years of being behind the Iron Curtain, they rebuilt their Parliament with a glass dome and a mirrored spire, directing sunlight into the chamber, a chamber made of glass walls for sunlight and transparency.

This people's House operates the same way, or at least it should, until

these hearings, behind closed doors, these secret depositions happen.

Madam Speaker, I support President Trump.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE MORE

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I stand with my Republican colleagues tonight as the people's House faces an unprecedented and illegitimate impeachment process.

House Democrats' secret impeachment proceedings behind closed doors are keeping the American people in the dark. Members in the minority are being shut out of the process, which threatens to erode the most basic standards of transparency in our Nation's government.

The Mueller investigation didn't give them what they wanted, so now they conduct secret proceedings behind these closed doors. This simply is unacceptable.

As I have continued to state on behalf of my constituents, Congress should be legislating on behalf of the American people, not wasting valuable legislative time and millions of taxpayer dollars.

We should be passing the USMCA and meaningful reforms for our farmers and ranchers. We should be passing bipartisan infrastructure legislation, and we should be addressing the devastating crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women.

Instead, House Democrats choose to continue endless partisan investigations and reckless impeachment inquiries. Madam Speaker, the American people deserve more.

LET'S GET BACK TO WORK

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in defense of my constituents who deserve action on issues that will improve their lives and strengthen our Nation. However, instead of focusing on bipartisan solutions, House leadership is focusing on partisan antics to impeach the President.

On November 8, 2016, nearly 138 million Americans cast their votes to decide the occupant of the White House. Now these voters are being disenfranchised by Washington Democrats who seek to nullify the election results. They are using any means necessary to remove the President because they cannot beat him at the ballot box. Now, the latest attack is the deployment of a costly and partisan impeachment process.

Madam Speaker, I was elected to represent the great people of Missouri's Fourth Congressional District, and they have spoken. They want Congress