

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

to work on everyday issues, such as the rising cost of healthcare, crumbling roads and bridges, and an opportunity to increase trade by passing USMCA.

Madam Speaker, let's get back to work.

CONSPIRACY OF COUP ATTEMPT

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

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, calling this a constitutional impeachment process is a farce and a gross misrepresentation of what is taking place. The entire process has flown in the face of precedent, procedure, and decency, with no regard whatsoever for the good of the country. It is politics at perhaps the worst we have seen in our Nation's history.

The Democrats started their effort to depose President Trump even before he took office, starting with the Russia collusion hoax.

Witness interviews are being conducted behind closed doors while Members of Congress, who have the responsibility to vote on the testimony of these witnesses, are shut out.

The chairman of the Intelligence Committee is having secret phone calls, talking with alleged whistleblowers, and withholding information from Members of Congress and the public that is vital to this inquiry.

This is shameful. This is really a conspiracy to remove a duly elected President.

The Democrat majority is engaged in an effort to conduct a trial with a predetermined outcome to remove President Trump from office using tactics unbecoming and unfitting the Republic we serve and this House.

This is not a legitimate inquiry; it is a coup attempt. It is time to stop this charade.

LET'S GET ON WITH WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, once again, Members returned to Washington this week. And, once again, important bipartisan work on issues like lowering prescription drug prices, encouraging rural broadband build-out, passing the USMCA trade bill, and improving America's aging infrastructure has stalled because of the very partisan efforts to impeach President Trump.

This week, the Democratic majority will hold more secret meetings in the Capitol basement, release more selective, cherry-picked leaks designed to confuse the American people, and continue their guilty-until-proven-innocent sham to impeach the President.

They have been plotting this since he was walking down Pennsylvania Ave-

nue on January 20, 2017, and probably even before that. But, the Russian collusion hoax failed miserably, and the Robert Mueller testimony gave them nothing. So, now, they are on to plan B.

They say they have the evidence to impeach, but we have already heard that song. Democratic leaders have claimed to have evidence before. Let's see if they can actually produce their evidence this time.

Let's get on with working for the American people.

IMPEACHMENT TRANSPARENCY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been trying to impeach President Trump since he took office, and we all know this.

They have made it very clear they deem the President's every action to be impeachable, and, since the beginning of this joke inquiry, they have shown no interest in fair, fact-based proceedings.

Impeachment is a monumental step that must be conducted with full transparency, but what we are witnessing here is a violation of due process that should concern every single American.

Democrats have held meetings in secret where convenient, one-sided information can be leaked to the public, denying American citizens the right to have their elected Members of Congress present.

The dedication to using any and all resources in an attempt to remove a duly elected President is unthinkable and, frankly, a waste of time. The Constitution provides the House with the power of impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors, not for political theater to push an agenda.

Madam Speaker, the Democrats have made a mockery of Congress and our democracy throughout this process. The American people deserve better, and this President deserves better.

As my colleague from Texas, AL GREEN, said: President Trump will win again in 2020.

In God we trust.

HOLD A VOTE TO AUTHORIZE AN IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the partisan impeachment inquiry currently under way by House Democrats. They have elected to make this a closed-door, partisan process with no fairness, transparency, due process, or accountability to the American people.

It is absolutely necessary for the Speaker to hold a vote in the full House to formally authorize an im-

peachment inquiry. Regardless of which party held the majority in the past, there has been an authorization vote because it allows the House to adopt procedures that will provide for the minority to be an equal part of this process.

We cannot even get access to testimony from the secret hearings. Considering impeaching a duly elected President should be significant enough to demand transparency, due process, and an open and fair proceeding.

In wake of this partisan exercise, we have abandoned the work of the people. We should be passing legislation that is bipartisan to lower the price of prescription drugs and approving the USMCA that will create millions of jobs for hardworking Americans.

We cannot afford to put these priorities on the back burner, and I know the folks in my district agree.

CALLING OUT UNPRECEDENTED AND ILLEGITIMATE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, this place is based predominantly on precedent and procedure. To bypass this proven pathway is predictably painful. So I pause to put a plea to the powers that be:

Our people deserve better.

The propaganda pushed upon the people is a political ploy as perpetrators usurp the proven precedents of the past.

It is painful to be placed in a position to protest the pranks pushed by PELOSI and her posse of players, but people have been pushed out and put on the sidelines as Democrats plow ahead with this so-called impeachment inquiry.

The impact of this pandering is the peeling away of the people's trust placed upon us. As the past has played out, I have been perplexed by the pontifications of people in positions of power who puff themselves up in pretentious prominence when it is really petty partisanship.

So I plead, as we push and pull for power, that we do so grounded in prudence that protects the proven procedures of the past.

DEMOCRATS' UNPRECEDENTED AND DANGEROUS IMPEACHMENT EXERCISE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, we are here tonight to draw attention to the Democrats' unprecedented and dangerous impeachment exercise. It is unprecedented because this has simply never happened before.

In our nearly two-and-a-half centuries as a nation, there have only been three instances of impeachment proceedings against a President. In all