

This experience and this expertise positioned him perfectly for a high-level career with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, which is headquartered in the First Congressional District of Georgia. During James' time there, he did an exceptional job of managing training operations in Georgia, New Mexico, South Carolina, and the D.C. metropolitan area.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Gregorius for his service to our country and congratulate him on his retirement.

James' presence, leadership, and expertise will all be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC ACTION OF ODREN POLK

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, today, it is my great pleasure to recognize the heroic action of Odren Polk, a resident of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, in our 12th Congressional District.

Affectionately referred to as "Mr. O," Odren serves his community at Stevens Primary School through STEP AmeriCorps, a national service organization.

On what Odren described as an otherwise usual day in the cafeteria, Mr. O noticed one of the students choking on a grape tomato. Utilizing the first aid training he received at AmeriCorps, Mr. O jumped into action, dislodging the tomato from the student's airway and saving his life.

What Mr. O described as an automatic reaction was possible only because of the training he received at AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that seeks to improve lives and foster civic engagement. Approximately 75,000 Americans across the country serve their community through AmeriCorps each year.

AmeriCorps members also receive training that prepares them to serve their communities after their AmeriCorps is completed. As in the case with Mr. O, sometimes that training comes in handy sooner rather than later.

PROVIDING NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, today, President Trump signed the historic United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement and fulfilled a campaign promise to modernize trade with two of our largest trading partners.

The USMCA is projected to generate \$68 billion in new economic activity and create over 175,000 new jobs for hardworking Americans.

President Trump and Republicans fought to complete the USMCA on behalf of American farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and small business owners.

As a rural State with strong agricultural, manufacturing, and business sectors, Mississippi stands to benefit greatly from this agreement by expanding markets for high-quality Mississippi poultry and livestock and hundreds of manufacturing products.

This trade agreement will provide a boost to our economy that has grown significantly under Republican leadership and is another example of free market economic principles at work to provide new employment opportunities for all Americans.

WISHING THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS LUCK IN THE SUPER BOWL

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, it seems like it was just yesterday when I sat down in my family living room with my dad to watch Super Bowl IV. It was an exciting game, watching Hank Stram strut up and down the sideline, Lenny Dawson completing long passes to Otis Taylor.

This weekend, after 50 years in the desert, the Chiefs are back at the Super Bowl. On behalf of the entire delegation, I want to wish Coach Reid and MVP Patrick Mahomes a great day, a great game, wishing that they all do their very best and bring back home that Lombardi Trophy.

HONORING JEAN FERNANDEZ

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, this past weekend was the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge of World War II in Europe.

I rise today to honor a great lady, Jean Fernandez, who is a veteran of that historic battle and turned 100 very recently.

Living to be 100 years old is an accomplishment on its own, but Jean's story is particularly remarkable.

Arriving after D-Day and before the Battle of the Bulge, Jean is one of the few women veterans who was actually able to serve in that role in our Nation during World War II.

During her time as a nurse at the 179th U.S. Army General Hospital at Rouen in northern France, the hospital was constantly under threat of air attack, and many of the young men she cared for were severely affected by shell shock.

Had it not been for the My Life, My Story program provided by the VA, Jean's story may not have ever been told.

I had the pleasure of stopping by and spending some time with her at her 100th birthday party up in Susanville,

and I enjoyed hearing her recount her time in the military as well as her extraordinary life.

What a neat lady. She is an exceptional American, and I am very thankful for her service and really honored to have had a chance to get to know her and spend time with her.

□ 1945

REVIEWING IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SLOTKIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it has been an interesting day.

I was down in the Senate earlier today. We have reciprocity with the Senate, so we can go onto the Senate floor. It is a very interesting experience, seeing a President who committed no crime, not even perjury, like President Clinton, having an attempt to remove him from office.

An article today by Brent Bozell says: "One favorite tactic of our 'objective' media during the impeachment of President Donald Trump is to find a clip of the President's legal experts such as Ken Starr and Alan Dershowitz expressing an opinion during the 1998-99 impeachment of Bill Clinton and then show a contrast with the present day. But this is just as easily demonstrated with the press.

"It is not surprising that Democrats and Republicans favor or oppose impeachment based on the party of the President in the dock. It should be surprising that our supposedly non-partisan journalists flip to whichever talking points are in use by the Democrats. That makes the press a gaggle of hypocrites.

"Back in 1998, Newsweek's Eleanor Clift spoke for the vast majority of the press from her chair on 'The McLaughlin Group.' Before the House voted to impeach Clinton, she warned, 'If the Republicans want to go ahead and do this, I think they disgrace themselves in a more profound way than President Clinton has by abusing the machinery of impeachment, knowing full well that the Senate will hold a sham trial and they will be, in effect, delivered of this ridiculous conclusion.'

"Over and over again, these network 'news' stars lamented that the House impeachment vote and the Senate impeachment trial of President Clinton were a 'sham' and a horrible 'distraction' from the people's business. They said small-minded Republican Clinton haters were obsessed with sex, and never mind the actual charges of perjury and obstruction of justice."

Obstruction of justice, of course, being a crime and perjury being a crime, whereas obstruction of Congress is more in the nature of maladministration, which the Founders made

clear should not be a basis for impeachment.

“Then there was NBC’s Matt Lauer, who brought on former House Speaker Jim Wright, who resigned in disgrace in 1989 over a corrupt scheme of selling crates of his books to lobbying groups.”

As I recall, there were restrictions on getting paid for speeches, so groups would buy thousands of his books that would sit in crates and go nowhere, in many cases, from what was said back then, as a way of getting around that. But he spoke with moral authority in response to Lauer.

“Lauer said: ‘Speaker Wright, let me start with you. When you resigned 9 years ago, you had been battered by the right. You called for an end to what you called ‘mindless cannibalism.’ Nine years later, we are hearing terms like that again and others swirling around the impeachment of Bill Clinton. Have we learned nothing in 9 years?’”

As the article says, one thing we all do know is Matt Lauer learned absolutely nothing from Bill Clinton about sexual harassment in the workplace. Rather interesting.

There was an article a week ago from Paul Sperry.

Like I say, I was down at the Senate earlier today, and I know the President’s lawyers were asking people and their staff, Republicans, not to use the name people have referred to as being the whistleblower.

I have never named the whistleblower. I have named people who I believed were critical fact witnesses, and some in the media lambasted me and said: You named the whistleblower.

Well, I thought we didn’t know who the whistleblower was. How do you know who the whistleblower was when I named him if we don’t know who the whistleblower is, if you don’t know who the whistleblower is?

Anyway, hypocrisy knows no bounds when it comes to some in the Washington media and some here in Congress. But in any event, the request is not to mention the name of the person, the leftwing activist who has been undermining and trying to destroy the Trump Presidency since President Trump got elected, commonly referred to as the whistleblower.

But the article by Paul Sperry says: “Sources told RealClearInvestigations the staffer with whom” this leftwing activist trying to destroy the Trump Presidency, also called the whistleblower, “was speaking was Sean Misko. Both were Obama administration holdovers working in the Trump White House on foreign policy and national security issues. And both expressed anger over Trump’s new ‘America First’ foreign policy, a sea change from President Obama’s approach to international affairs.”

“Just days after he was sworn in, they were already talking about trying to get rid of him,” said a White House colleague who overheard their con-

versation. ‘They weren’t just bent on subverting his agenda,’ the former official added. ‘They were plotting to actually have him removed from office.’”

Sean Misko “left the White House last summer to join House impeachment manager ADAM SCHIFF’s committee, where sources say he offered ‘guidance’ to the whistleblower, who has been officially identified only as an intelligence officer in a complaint against Trump filed under whistleblower laws. Misko then helped run the impeachment inquiry based on that complaint as a top investigator for congressional Democrats.”

That is in the Democrats’ part of the Intelligence Committee.

The probe culminated in Trump’s impeachment last month, and “Schiff and other House Democrats last week delivered the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate and are now pressing the case for his removal during the trial, which began last Tuesday” of last week.

“The coordination between the official believed to be the whistleblower and a key Democratic staffer, details of which are disclosed here for the first time, undercuts the narrative that impeachment developed spontaneously out of what Trump’s Democratic antagonists call the ‘patriotism’ of an ‘apolitical civil servant.’”

“Two former coworkers said they overheard” the leftwing activist trying to destroy Trump, sometimes called the whistleblower, “and Misko, close friends and Democrats, discussing how to ‘take out,’ or remove, the new President from office within days of Trump’s inauguration. These coworkers said the President’s controversial Ukraine phone call in July 2019 provided the pretext they and their Democratic allies had been looking for.”

“‘They didn’t like his policies,’ another former White House official said. ‘They had a political vendetta against him from day one.’”

“Their efforts were part of a larger pattern of coordination to build a case for impeachment, involving Democratic leaders as well as anti-Trump figures both inside and outside of government.”

“All unnamed sources for this article spoke only on condition that they not be further identified or described. Although strong evidence points to” the leftwing activist trying to destroy President Trump, also known as the whistleblower, “as the government employee who lodged the whistleblower complaint, he has not been officially identified as such. As a result, this article makes a distinction between public information released about the unnamed whistleblower/CIA analyst and specific information about” the leftwing activist trying to destroy President Trump, also known as the whistleblower.

“Democrats based their impeachment case on the whistleblower complaint, which alleges that President Trump sought to help his reelection

campaign by demanding that Ukraine’s leader investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter in exchange for military aid.”

The article goes on: “The whistleblower’s candor is also being called into question. It turns out that the CIA operative failed to report his contacts with Schiff’s office to the intelligence community’s inspector general who fielded this whistleblower complaint. He withheld the information both in interviews with the inspector general, Michael Atkinson, and in writing, according to impeachment committee investigators. The whistleblower form he filled out required him to disclose whether he had ‘contacted other entities’—including ‘Members of Congress.’ But he left that section blank on the disclosure form he signed.”

“The investigators say that details about how the whistleblower consulted with Schiff’s staff and perhaps misled Atkinson about those interactions are contained in the transcript of a closed-door briefing Atkinson gave to the House Intelligence Committee last October. However, Schiff has sealed the transcript from public view. It is the only impeachment witness transcript out of 18 that he has not released.”

I think I will pause here at this point. I have continually heard down in the Senate the House managers referring to what is basically a travesty to have a trial without any witnesses. No. Here is the real travesty.

The real travesty was the violation of House rules, not allowing Republicans to have the witnesses we requested. When those weren’t agreed to, then under the rules—and, of course, the Democrats are in the majority. They could have changed the rules. They didn’t, so we were entitled to a minority day of witnesses to testify, and that was refused as well.

That was the real travesty, when there was no allowance for Republicans to get down to real facts, get down to the bottom of the allegations against the President. That was truly a travesty.

But in the committee of jurisdiction, the Judiciary Committee, we were only allowed to have some law school professors come in and give us their opinions. Two were quite clearly hateful of President Trump. One tried to sound as if he was reluctant to talk about impeachment when he had been busy twittering about impeachment since President Trump had first been elected and sworn in.

It was a very disingenuous hearing, but we had to sit there and listen to the pontificating from people who clearly adjusted their opinions to address their disdain for President Trump. But that was the only live witnesses we were allowed to have.

Instead, we took in all these depositions, all the transcribed depositions. That is what we took in. Those were our witnesses. That is what the House Judiciary Committee and this House Chamber was supposed to have considered in voting on impeachment.

We were told, no, we have all this testimony, lots of witnesses, before the Judiciary Committee vote. We have all these transcripts if you want to read them.

□ 2000

We had all of these transcripts, lots of witnesses. You want to read them. And then people had the gall to go down the hall to the Senate and say: They are not allowing any witnesses.

Well, either there were no witnesses that the Judiciary Committee was able to consider, other than professors—and I thought Professor Turley was outstanding. He and Alan Dershowitz are normally quite liberal, but they care deeply about civil rights, and they care deeply about the Constitution, and they don't let their political persuasions affect what they believe about the Constitution. I admire that in them, even though, like I say, we have some strong disagreements on other things.

But there in the Senate, down the hall, they have all that mass of, what we were told here, was overwhelming evidence. They have got all of those transcripts down there. It is part of the evidence in the Senate, part of it, so either there was no evidence, no witnesses in the House, or there is plenty of evidence from which the Senate can consider and vote down this travesty called an effort to remove President Trump.

In this article it says: "The investigators say that details about how the whistleblower consulted with Schiff's staff and perhaps misled Atkinson about those interactions are contained in the transcript," as I mentioned.

"Schiff has classified the document 'secret,' preventing Republicans who attended the Atkinson briefing from quoting from it. Even impeachment investigators cannot view it outside a highly secured room."

Anyway, it goes on. It is pretty ridiculous. The article says further on: "At the time, the CIA operative worked on loan to the White House," and they are talking about the leftwing activist trying to destroy President Trump, also known as the whistleblower. He was "... on loan to the White House as a top Ukrainian analyst in the National Security Council, where he had previously served as an adviser on Ukraine to Vice President Biden. The whistleblower complaint cites Biden, alleging that Trump demanded Ukraine's newly elected leader investigate him and his son 'to help the President's 2020 reelection bid.'"

The thing is, there is no such thing. What basically the House managers are saying is, if somebody is running for President, it doesn't matter how corrupt they have been. It doesn't matter how corrupt they and their family have been, you can't question them if they are running for President because that might be considered political.

Well, if there was corruption—and everybody knew there was plenty of cor-

ruption in Ukraine—and, apparently, no entity more corrupt than Burisma, the natural gas company that made Hunter Biden a member of the board, it is kind of important to find out what was at the heart of all this.

It is interesting, the leftwing activist that was trying to destroy President Trump, also known as the whistleblower, and Sean Misko and Abigail Grace, they reportedly have been quite close to the National Security Council. And it was Misko and this leftwing activist trying to destroy the President, also known as the whistleblower, who had been, as the article points out, overheard in the early days of the Trump administration trying to conspire on ways to take him out and get rid of him as President.

But the truth is, it had to—these three, Misko, Abigail Grace, and the leftwing activist that was trying to destroy Trump known as the whistleblower, they had dealings with Ukraine. They had dealings with Biden, and it is certainly worth noting that even in the inspector general's report, there was mention of the name, by name, of this leftwing activist trying to destroy Trump, also known as the whistleblower, as being a guest, being associated with Vice President Biden.

So if Vice President Biden, say, hypothetically, were involved in any bribery or plot to enrich family, then there is a good chance they would at least be witnesses, if not complicit.

So there are plenty of reasons besides disagreeing with President Trump's America First policy to try to stop any investigation into corruption by Vice President Biden because it may implicate them or at least make them witnesses to some of the stuff.

I still was blown away when I got to a Natural Resources Committee hearing one day and the person in charge of the tens of millions, hundreds of millions—whatever it was—dollars that the U.S. was providing to Puerto Rico for hurricane assistance, and the person in charge of doling out this money in Puerto Rico was the same person who had been finance minister in Ukraine when they had all of this money—a billion or whatever it was—that they were dealing with from the Obama administration.

It was amazing. And I asked: "How do you do that?" I mean, didn't Ukrainians want—it wasn't the defense minister but finance minister—"Didn't Ukrainians want a finance minister who was Ukrainian?"

"Yes," she says. In essence, she said: They swore me in as a citizen of Ukraine the same way they swore me in as finance minister.

How do you get jobs like that? You hear that the United States is going to send a billion, or hundreds of millions of dollars somewhere, and you run and get in front of that so you can get a job making sure the right people get all of that money. How does that happen?

You can get a job handing out that money in Ukraine. You can get a job,

same person, run over to Puerto Rico, "I want to be in charge of the money here in Puerto Rico." That is amazing.

I am sure there were other people who would have loved to have had those jobs. How does this same person get that job in Puerto Rico and Ukraine? Maybe it is kind of like Strzok and Page.

We saw in the Horowitz inspector general report from the Department of Justice—another great Obama hold-over—he pointed out in his 60-or-so page report about Comey: Yeah, he says, you know, Comey, he took home material that was a violation to take home. He leaked it, got it into the press.

Of course, he was trying, as he said, to get a special counsel appointed, which his conspiracy worked out well. He got a special counsel appointed, his running buddy, Bob Mueller, whom he had said in an article some years back something like: It is great knowing that if he were on a railroad track and a train were coming, that Bob Mueller would be right there with him.

Yeah, well, that is interesting, but nonetheless, Horowitz pointed out that the reason that Comey probably wouldn't be prosecuted, shouldn't be—you know, we referred it—was because the information he leaked and that he took—some would say stole—but he took was classified at such a low level, it was really more of a violation of his employment agreement and the policy manual.

Well, how did it get classified at such a very low level? Well, on page 1 and 2 of the Horowitz report, he is talking about the FBI did this. They reviewed this. The FBI did this and that. Well, you don't know until you get over to page 42 or 43 of this 60-or-so page report when he finally reveals—when he says the FBI on pages 1 and 2, he is talking about two people, Peter Strzok and Lisa Page.

He has the gall to put in there that, in essence, the reason they were so good at doing this classification of the Comey stuff—if they classified it at a higher level, Comey would be prosecuted and go to jail, so classify it at a low level so he wouldn't—but they were so good at classifying the emails of Hillary Clinton, that is why they were so qualified to do this for the Comey material that was withheld, taken home, stolen, whatever you want to call it and leaked.

So it is kind of the same thing here. Gee, these folks are experts. Why? Because they told us they were. That is what Strzok and Page said. You know, we are the best at reviewing and classifying.

But this article from Paul Sperry goes on, and says about this that: "Two NSC coworkers told RCT"—and I guess that is RealClear Investigations, doing this article—"that they overheard" the leftwing activist trying to destroy President Trump, also known as the whistleblower, "and Misko—who was also working at the NSC as an analyst—making anti-Trump remarks to

each other while attending a staff-wide NSC meeting called by then-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, where they sat together in the south auditorium of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, part of the White House complex.

“The ‘all hands’ meeting, held about two weeks into the new administration, was attended by hundreds of NSC employees.”

That has got to change. The President has got to dramatically cut the number of people who are part of the National Security Council. You can’t have security with that many people part of the National Security Council.

The article points out: “They were popping off about how they were going to remove Trump from office.”

This is back right after Trump took office. And this is a quote from the person that disclosed this to Paul Sperry. “No joke,” he said, or she, whoever it was.

“A military staffer detailed to the NSC, who was seated directly in front of” the leftwing activist trying to destroy Trump, also known as the whistleblower, “and Misko during the meeting, confirmed hearing them talk about toppling Trump during their private conversation, which the source said lasted about one minute. The crowd was preparing to get up to leave the room at the time.

“After Flynn briefed the staff about what ‘America First’ foreign policy means,” the leftwing activist trying to destroy President Trump, also known as the whistleblower, “turned to Misko and commented, ‘We need to take him out.’ And Misko replied, ‘Yeah, we need to do everything we can to take out the President.’

“Added the military detailee, who spoke on condition of anonymity: ‘By ‘taking him out,’ they meant removing him from office by any means necessary.’”

Of course, that’s this person’s impression. Maybe they meant something else by “taking him out.” That was his impression, or her impression.

“They were triggered by Trump’s and Flynn’s vision for the world. This was the first ‘all hands’ staff meeting where they got to see Trump’s national security team, and they were huffing and puffing throughout the briefing any time Flynn said something they didn’t like about ‘America First’.

“He said he also overheard” the leftwing activist trying to destroy President Trump, also known as the whistleblower, “telling Misko, referring to Trump ‘We can’t let him enact this foreign policy.’”

And I have got to say, that sounds remarkably like colonel, lieutenant colonel—I gave him a promotion there for a moment—Lieutenant Colonel Vindman.

Reviewing his testimony, as I am going through, I am going: Holy smoke, this guy is more loyal to Ukraine and the Ukrainian President than he is to the UCMJ, to his own

Constitution, to his Commander in Chief.

So I was not at all surprised when I found out the President of Ukraine, he noticed the same thing I did, and offered Lieutenant Colonel Vindman—three times he offered him the job of Minister of Defense in Ukraine.

□ 2015

This is just amazing. This guy clearly did not like President Trump, and you could tell he was really offended. He was the expert on Ukraine, he knew what American foreign policy was supposed to be, but he was totally ignorant of the Constitution that basically allows every President—as President Obama said, elections have consequences. When President Trump got elected, he was the new foreign policy, and anyone in the administration who didn’t like President Trump’s foreign policy needed to leave. If they couldn’t follow it, if they couldn’t work with it and implement it, then they needed to be honest and honorable, instead of being destructive to our Constitution and our country and resign or ask for reassignment somewhere else. Or in Vindman’s case, go ahead and take the job of defense minister of Ukraine.

But, of course, if he had done that, then he wouldn’t have looked very good when he came to testify because he wouldn’t have been wearing a uniform like he doesn’t wear to work, but he needed to hang around to try to destroy President Trump. Of course, there are articles about him potentially being the one who leaked the conversation to the leftwing activist trying to destroy President Trump also known as the whistleblower.

In any event, this article says: “Alarmed by their conversation, the military staffer immediately reported what he heard to his superiors.

“‘It was so shocking that they were so blatant and outspoken about their opinion. They weren’t shouting it, but they didn’t seem to feel the need to hide it.’

“The coworkers didn’t think much more about the incident.

“‘We just thought they were wacky,’ the first source said. ‘Little did we know.’”

“A CIA alumnus, Misko had previously assisted Biden’s top national security aide Jake Sullivan. Former NSC staffers said Misko was,” the leftwing activist trying to destroy President Trump, also known as the whistleblower “closest and most trusted ally in the Trump White House.”

They were “‘very tight and spent nearly 2 years together at the NSC. . . . Both of them were paranoid about Trump.’

“‘They were thick as thieves,’ added the first NSC source. ‘They sat next to each other and complained about Trump all the time. They were buddies. They weren’t just colleagues. They were buddies outside the White House.’

“The February 2017 incident wasn’t the only time the pair exhibited open

hostility toward the President. During the following months, both were accused internally of leaking negative information about Trump to the media.

“But Trump’s controversial call to the new president of Ukraine this past summer—in which he asked the foreign leader for help with domestic investigations involving the Obama administration, including Biden—gave them the opening they were looking for.”

I would humbly submit, though, that if they were involved in any of the corruption that was going on over there with Burisma and Ukraine—and though many in the media want to take the talking points from our Democratic folks across the aisle, and one accused me of regurgitating Russian propaganda, when the truth is what the Russians have wanted, what Putin has wanted more than anything else was to divide the United States, because he knew dividing this country pretty much closely in the middle would help do what he has wanted to do since the Soviet Union fell and he was a KGB agent, and that is divide America so that it falls. That is exactly what he wants.

We have heard—people don’t want to talk about it—but the truth is, there were some Russian efforts to help Hillary Clinton in that election, which I think makes clear they wanted to divide America and they have been totally successful in dividing America. They have got to feel good about what they do as they watch the impeachment proceedings.

But anyone who would sit here and say I was quoting Russian propaganda, actually, that person would end up being the tool of the Russians because he is dividing America which is what Russia and Putin have wanted to do. He is doing the handiwork of Putin, not me.

So I would still submit, as I have numerous times, that critical fact witnesses don’t necessarily need to be heard at this impeachment sham down the hall, but there do need to be witnesses in very rigorous hearings in the Senate. They would be Alexandra Chalupa who worked with Ukraine, Biden, and others, the leftwing activist trying to destroy President Trump also known as the whistleblower, Abigail Grace, and the guy who Chairman SCHIFF hired on July 26, the day after President Trump’s good call with the President of Ukraine, Zelensky, the guy who ran on the basis that he was going to stop corruption. That was a great thing.

He said: Why didn’t President Trump talk to the Ukrainians sooner about anti-corruption?

It wasn’t until 2019 that they elected a new president who said he is going to do something about corruption.

Why would he talk to the previous president who was in corruption up to his eyeballs?

It wouldn’t do any good.

But President Trump had hope. Whether it is a Republican or a Democrat in the White House, I hope they

will seek help from any country in which there is corruption that involves American high officials. I hope that happens.

But in the meantime, the impeachment proceeding goes on down the hall, and it is dividing America. It is bad for America. We really need to come together and stop doing Russia's handiwork for them. They want us divided, and the people pushing this stuff are doing their handiwork for them. I am not saying intentionally. They are happy to do it to try to hurt Republicans, especially to hurt President Trump, but this is serious. It is dividing America.

Again, my friends across the aisle, I love that they are quoting the Founders these days, but we should hang together or we will most assuredly hang separately. We need to hang together as a country. We can have our disagreements, but this wanting to criminalize disagreements as they have done with President Trump's America First policy needs to stop. We need to come back together and get some things done.

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

MUSLIM BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, as part of the incredible, large class of members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I am really proud to be here helping my colleagues translate a number of policy positions and issues and in being able to translate that into action to various policies and to be able to express that.

So this Special Order is very, very much an integral part of organizing within our caucus, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, on what we call frontline community issues. So I want to thank my colleagues for helping us organize today a Special Order hour to declare loudly and very clearly to every Muslim American and to Muslims around the world that the House of Representatives will not stand idly by as this administration continues to enforce its racist Muslim ban.

So with that I really rise today to send a message to marginalized communities everywhere that through our work to repeal the Muslim ban we are preventing racist bans from ever happening again.

I am so incredibly grateful for Congresswoman CHU's leadership of the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act, or what we call the NO BAN Act. I thank Congresswoman CHU for her leadership and courage to stand up to those who try to target folks based on their faith.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman TLAIB for putting this Special Order hour together. I truly appreciate it, especially during this very, very significant week.

Monday marked the third anniversary of the Muslim ban. We had a press conference on that day. It was incredible to see the Senators and the House Members and so many groups of great diverse backgrounds all coming together to say that now is the time to pass H.R. 2214, the NO BAN Act.

The failure of this ban was apparent the day it began. I will never forget that day in January of 2017, just 3 years ago, when Donald Trump announced his first Muslim ban, creating chaos and separating families with no justification. I was on my way to a community event when I received a frantic call about 50 Muslims who were being detained at LAX for hours with no end in sight, despite the fact that they had green cards and were legal.

At that point I decided to drop everything and help in any way I could. I rushed over to LAX to advocate for these people, and once I arrived I found out that indeed there were scores of people there with a legal right to be here kept for hours with little food and blocked from receiving legal advice from an attorney. It was outrageous.

When I pressed Customs and Border Protection for answers, they resisted and blocked me. I even got them on the phone only to have them hang up on me. I had never been more disrespected as a Member of Congress, but disrespect and chaos is what this Muslim ban is all about.

The pain and psychological trauma this travel ban has caused are long lasting, spouses and fiances being separated, weddings, funerals and graduations have been missed. People have not been able to come to take care of sick ones. Over 5,000 adopted children of U.S. citizens cannot join their families. None of these people are a threat to the U.S., and we have every way of knowing that through our extensive vetting process. But they have been made victims of this hateful ban nonetheless.

It just doesn't have to be this way. When the Supreme Court upheld the President's ability to issue these bans, the Court also required the administration to grant waivers to ensure that the program had a legitimate national security interest. But despite that requirement, the State Department has approved only 10 percent of these applicants. That means that the Trump administration believes that 90 percent of all travelers from these countries are threats to our national security, and it renders this waiver process virtually nonexistent.

That is outrageous. That is why we have to fight back, and that is why last spring I introduced the NO BAN Act with Senator Chris Coons, which is the best way to reclaim Congress' power and stop this ban.

First, it would repeal all three versions of President Trump's Muslim ban, putting an immediate end to this family separation.

Second, it requires a report on the total number of waivers that were granted and the total number that were denied, so we know the truth about what has happened.

Third, our bill says that if a President does want to implement such a ban in the future he would actually have to prove actual evidence of a threat. This ensures in the future no individuals are denied entry into the U.S. based solely on their religion.

□ 2030

With the President confirming that he now wants to expand this ban to even more countries, now is the time to act.

The response to the NO BAN Act has been tremendous: 214 Members of Congress have cosponsored the bill in the House, and over 480 groups have endorsed it; 39 Members of the Senate are cosponsors.

In September of 2019, the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs Committees held a joint hearing that examined how few waivers have been granted to individuals since the ban was issued, even though most people applying for entry into the U.S. pose no threat to our country.

Just this week, Chairman NADLER announced that the bill will be marked up in the Judiciary Committee in 2 weeks, and Speaker PELOSI announced that the NO BAN Act will be brought to the floor for a vote.

This vote cannot happen soon enough for people like Ismail Alghazali, who will be my guest at the State of the Union next week. Ismail is a U.S. citizen who works at a small neighborhood market in New York, and, in 2013, he married his wife, Hend, in Yemen. Hend applied for a visa to join her husband in the U.S., but before her interview at the U.S. Embassy in Djibouti, Trump's hateful Muslim ban went into effect.

Hend was 8 months pregnant, and her pregnancy has been difficult. Doctors had discovered she had a heart condition. Ismail and Hend hoped that that meant that they would be granted a waiver due to medical reasons. But after an interview that lasted just 5 minutes, Hend was denied a visa and left to give birth in Djibouti, while Ismail had to return to the U.S. He was not able to witness the birth of his first child.

Last year, in April, Hend gave birth to another daughter, and Ismail has not been able to even meet his daughter for several months because of the ban. Luckily, however, the family has now been reunited in the United States.

But too many others are left waiting for no reason, other than the President's prejudice.

We have every ability to vet people like Hend as we have done for years.