

To impeach or not

by Howard L. Schwartz, M.D.

The Republican Senate, specifically Mitch McConnell, has refused to consider the bills sent to him by the Democrat House majority for legislative initiatives to address Trump's science-denial positions that warms the oceans, floods homes and farms, threatens livelihoods (farmers and entrepreneurs dependent on free trade), the health of our children and grandchildren and our election processes. It's all well and good to take the position that these are political differences that should be settled on election day not through impeachment; but what about those school lunches his supporters need for their children or the demonstrated importance of medical research and arts education that require funding which the fossil fuel industry and gun manufacturers—his supporters—do not.

I read Federalist #65 (The Power of the Senate to Impeach) and #66 (Objections to that power); and the Constitution: Preamble and Article 2

—at the suggestion we do so by Jon Meacham, historian and Pulitzer Prize author of “The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels”—to better understand why the House has taken an enough-is-enough stand on Trump’s attempt to influence Ukraine to find dirt on Joe Biden and his son if they will do him-not ours as a country but him as individual running for a second term, a favor made, clear by Rudy G. that he will (only) then release the \$400 million approved by Congress needed by Ukraine to defend itself from Russia. This in-the-moment easy to understand transgression that any patriotic American, blue or red or independent or someone turned off voting at all, but now caught up in the furor and drama of this rare event of impeaching, as seems very likely, a president, not a district court Judge, is the moment to act.

Our country has experienced more assassinations —Wikipedia: More than 30 attempts to kill an [incumbent](#) or former president, or a [president-elect](#) have been made since the early 19th century. Four sitting presidents have been killed, all of them by gunshot: [Abraham Lincoln](#) (1865), [James A. Garfield](#) (1881), [William McKinley](#) (1901),

and [John F. Kennedy](#) (1963). Additionally, two presidents have been injured in attempted assassinations, also by gunshot: [Theodore Roosevelt](#) (1912; former president at the time) and [Ronald Reagan](#) (1981) than impeachments —only two Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton neither whom was removed from office. We should be grateful we are still a “Republic of laws if we have the will to defend them,” (Ben Franklin). So now will vote a majority of the House probably without any Republicans is the time to defend our Republic. There is no question the Senate will not impeach and it may be an unwise political decision, but it is in my opinion the honorable, ethical and necessary course of action for our Republic to defend the rule of law and bring charges of high crimes and misdemeanors against President Trump.

The House has an opportunity, willingly given them by Trump, to hold a president who boasts that Article 2 of our Constitution gives him total control of not only foreign affairs but whatever he chooses to do; that he is responsible to no one, that he is the law. and not restrained by the

checks and balances our framers—well read, most of them classically educated and perhaps really very stable geniuses—might have anticipated. Alexander Hamilton, a self-educated immigrant, born out-of-wedlock in Nevis, West Indies, did anticipate, human nature being what it is, that such a president might emerge and accordingly provided a remedy under specific circumstances for his impeachment—charged by the House and tried by then Senate—that have to do with character, temperament and demonstrated unfitness for the grave responsibilities he swore to uphold—our Constitution.

To be blunt, venal self-dealing with a foreign government to provide political ammunition to aid his election and withholding promised and legislatively approved by both House and Senate in uncommon agreement for the sake of our common interest, 400 millions of dollars, as the sweetener. And then agreeing with his aides who saw the need to hide the phone interaction in a code-concealed file and only to have their boss releasing himself what he had done, surely an act of his suspect judgement (“I could shoot someone on Fifth Ave. and...”).

Trump's supporters now say these are not crimes-just poor judgements, but #65 "crimes and misdemeanors" is to be understood in a broader sense as a disregard for fair play and a belief that "might does not make right," all implicit in the Preamble: "and liberty and justice and the pursuit of happiness for all."

Signed, Howard Schwartz M.D., Maplewood, NJ