

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

# Impeachment Basics



- **Post Reprint:** “House opens impeachment inquiry”
- **KidsPost Reprint:** “President’s phone call to Ukrainian leader ignites impeachment inquiry”
- **Post Reprint:** “Pelosi’s statement: ‘The President must be held accountable. No one is above the law.’”
- **Word Study:** A Word About Impeach
- **Retropolis Reprint:** “‘He lies like a dog’: The first effort to impeach a president was led by his own party”
- **Student Activity:** 3 To Inform You

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## INTRODUCTION.

An impeachment inquiry, a rare and historic procedure, officially commenced in September 2019. This resource guide provides reprints of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s statement and *The Washington Post* article that inform of the decision to begin the first step of impeachment as required in the U.S. Constitution.

A Kidspost article may be used with younger students to discuss impeachment and what moved House Speaker Pelosi to make her decision. Teachers may wish to have a world map for students to locate Ukraine, Russia and the United States before reading the article.

# A Rare and Historic Decision to Impeach

Impeachment is not new. Word Study gives the etymologic and historic background on “impeach” that goes back to the 1300s. *The Post’s* Retropolis article focuses on the first impeachment effort against a president in America in 1842.

Whether a letter to the editor from a whistleblower, an article about a whistleblower’s concerns about a sitting president, or a reporter’s informative columns, readers learn of decisions that influence lives and possibilities for action — even impeachment.

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# House opens impeachment inquiry

*Pelosi calls Trump's conduct a 'betrayal,' sets up political showdown*

BY RACHAEL BADE, MIKE DEBONIS  
AND KAROUN DEMIRJIAN

• Originally Published September 25, 2019

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi took the extraordinary step Tuesday of initiating impeachment proceedings against President Trump, accusing him of violating the Constitution in seeking help from a foreign leader to damage a political opponent.

Pelosi's move came after Trump acknowledged that he urged the Ukrainian president to investigate former vice president Joe Biden, a contender for the Democratic presidential nomination who holds a

wide lead over Trump, polls show, in a potential general election matchup. The revelation prompted a rush of moderate House Democrats to call for an impeachment inquiry into Trump, a step they had resisted for months. On Tuesday, Pelosi (D-Calif.) relented as well.

"The actions of the Trump presidency have revealed the dishonorable face of the president's betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security and betrayal of the integrity of our elections," Pelosi said in a brief statement before a backdrop of American flags, repeatedly invoking the nation's founders. "Therefore, today, I am announcing the House of Representatives is moving forward

with an official impeachment inquiry."

The confrontation between the Democratic-led House and Trump is likely to further divide a polarized nation ahead of the 2020 election while carrying implications for both parties. It remains unclear, however, who will capitalize politically over the next 14 months.

Trump immediately lashed out at the Democrats, tweeting, "PRESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT!"

The White House also scrambled to respond, announcing plans to release on Wednesday the transcript of his July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Congressional Republicans rallied to the president's defense, arguing impeachment would only motivate GOP voters.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said in a statement that Democrats "have been trying to reverse the results of the 2016 election since President Trump took office. For them, this is all about politics. Not about facts."

Pelosi and many in her caucus had resisted calls for impeachment from the party's liberal base and several of the 2020 presidential candidates, citing the absence of public support and GOP backing.

But over seven days, the revelations that the president sought the help of Zelensky to investigate Biden



BLAIR GUILD/THE WASHINGTON POST

**House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) called for a formal impeachment inquiry of President Trump on Sept. 24 after a history of quelling impeachment calls.**

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infuriated Democrats, particularly lawmakers with national security credentials.

Trump has denied pressuring Zelensky by withholding nearly \$400 million in foreign aid. Trump said Tuesday that he withheld the money over his concerns that the United States was contributing more to Ukraine than European countries were.

The launch of an impeachment inquiry follows an intense 24-hour period in which 57 Democrats — including moderates from Trump districts who had long opposed impeachment — endorsed proceedings. In total, 196 Democrats support an impeachment inquiry, according to a Washington Post analysis — and the number is continuing to grow.

In a sign of the gravity of the situation, Rep. John Lewis, an influential member in the caucus, was one of the latest Democrats to back impeachment Tuesday. The Georgia Democrat, a staunch Trump critic and close Pelosi ally, had declined for months to weigh in out of respect for the speaker.

“There comes a time when you have to be moved by the spirit of history to take action to protect and preserve the integrity of our nation. I believe, I truly believe, the time to begin impeachment proceedings against this president has come,” Lewis said on the House floor. “To delay or to do otherwise would betray the foundation of our democracy.”

Congress has launched impeachment proceedings against a president only four times in the

nation’s history. Pelosi’s move all but ensures that the House will vote on articles charging Trump with “high crimes and misdemeanors” in a matter of weeks, according to senior Democratic lawmakers and top leadership aides, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

Pelosi personally informed Trump of her decision Tuesday morning. The president, in New York for the U.N. meeting, telephoned the speaker to discuss gun legislation, Pelosi told lawmakers in private meetings.

The conversation, however, quickly turned to the president’s conversations with the Ukrainian leader. Trump insisted he had nothing to do with his administration’s refusal to share with Congress an intelligence community whistleblower complaint about his actions, according to individuals familiar with the call who spoke on the condition of anonymity to frankly describe the conversation.

Trump told Pelosi that he wasn’t the one blocking the complaint. “He said, ‘you know, I don’t have anything to do with that.’” she told her caucus.

She responded that he had the power to fix it and challenged him to turn over the complaint: “I said, ‘Well, then undo it.’ Undo it. Because you are asking the DNI to break the law. I mean, it’s just outrageous.”

The remarkable series of events on Capitol Hill will continue Thursday when the acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, who held back the whistleblower’s complaint from Congress, testifies before the House Intelligence Committee.

While the House could vote to impeach Trump, his ouster would require a conviction in the Senate, where Republicans were dismissive of Pelosi’s move as politically motivated.

“Speaker Pelosi’s much-publicized efforts to restrain her far-left conference have finally crumbled. House Democrats cannot help themselves,” said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) “Instead of working together across party lines on legislation to help American families and strengthen our nation, they will descend even deeper into their obsession with re-litigating 2016.”

Impeachment has occurred only twice in U.S. history — against Presidents Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. Neither was removed from office. President Richard M. Nixon resigned in 1974 after the House initiated impeachment proceedings but before an official vote, stepping down rather than face the embarrassment of such a rebuke.

Trump, however, has signaled he is ready for a fight. Brad Parscale, his campaign manager, said in a statement Tuesday that “the misguided Democrat impeachment strategy is meant to appease their rabid, extreme, leftist base, but will only serve to embolden and energize President Trump’s supporters and create a landslide victory for the President.”

House Republicans wasted little time blasting out news releases taunting moderate Democrats in Trump districts for supporting impeachment. In a statement, the



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Congressional Leadership Fund, a PAC dedicated to helping House Republicans, said, “Democrats feeling euphoric in the moment, will awaken to a nightmarish hangover when they’re forced to defend their decision to their constituents back home.”

Protecting her majority was one of the main reasons Pelosi resisted impeachment until now, arguing that Trump was “just not worth it.” She had said any move to impeach would require bipartisanship and public support. She currently has neither, though the most recent polling on impeachment was conducted well before the Ukraine controversy erupted.

Before Pelosi made her announcement Tuesday, the speaker and her leadership team briefly considered the creation of a select committee to conduct the inquiry, with some in leadership questioning whether the House Judiciary Committee was up to the task. But liberals balked at the idea and defended Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) and his ability to oversee the proceedings.

By the time Democrats huddled to discuss the historic move Tuesday afternoon during a somber caucus meeting, they appeared to be united.

“Unlike any other caucus meeting, there was broad consensus — I did

not hear one word of dissent, and that’s the first time that I recall that’s occurred in a discussion of the president,” said House Intelligence Committee member Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.) upon exiting the meeting.

The House plans to vote Wednesday on a resolution condemning the administration’s efforts to block the release of the whistleblower complaint alleging that Trump’s promise to a foreign leader constituted an “urgent concern” to national security.

In a rare, albeit subtle protest from the GOP-led Senate, lawmakers adopted a resolution on Tuesday calling for the White House to turn over the complaint to the intelligence committees, as is required under law.

In a separate move, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.) said the whistleblower wants to speak to his committee and is seeking guidance from Maguire about how he could do so.

“The times have found us,” Schiff told his colleagues during the Democratic caucus meeting. “And in light of the damning allegations the president has admitted to, the time is now.”

Biden on Tuesday called for Congress to begin impeachment

of Trump if the White House continues to stonewall congressional investigations, including questions regarding reports that Trump asked the Ukrainian president to investigate Biden and his son, Hunter.

“I can take the political attacks. They’ll come, and they’ll go, and in time, they’ll soon be forgotten. But if we allow a president to get away with shredding the United States Constitution, that will last forever,” Biden said in brief remarks Tuesday afternoon in Wilmington, Del.

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## KidsPost

# President's phone call to Ukrainian leader ignites impeachment inquiry

*Discussion about rival Joe Biden causes Democratic lawmakers to start an investigation*

A phone conversation between President Trump and the leader of Ukraine is one reason the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday launched an impeachment inquiry.

Impeachment is the process by which Congress can charge the president with an offense that could lead to his removal from office.

Trump repeatedly urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to work with Rudolph Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer, and U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr to investigate political rival Joe Biden, according to a transcript of the conversation released Wednesday.

In the July 25 call, Trump raised unproven allegations that the former vice president tried to interfere with a Ukrainian prosecutor's investigation of Biden's son Hunter.

"There's a lot of talk about Biden's son, that Biden stopped the prosecution and a lot of people want to find out about that," Trump said to Zelensky.

The conversation between the two leaders is part of a complaint by a whistleblower, someone connected to the government whose name has not been made public. The complaint



PHOTO: MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

**Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the House of Representatives, addresses the media Wednesday, one day after she announced that House Democrats will start an impeachment investigation of President Trump. A phone call Trump made to the Ukrainian president in July is part of the reason for the investigation.**

is central to the impeachment inquiry launched Tuesday by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Trump dismissed the phone call as routine.

The connection to the attorney general marked a new and possibly more serious issue for Trump because it shows he took steps to

involve the U.S. government with a foreign country to investigate a political rival.

Trump recently confirmed that he ordered the freezing of nearly \$400 million in aid to Ukraine a few days before the call.

— September 25, 2019

*Associated Press*

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# “Pelosi’s statement: ‘The President must be held accountable. No one is above the law.’”

• Originally Published September 24, 2019

*Following is the statement made by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) on Tuesday evening announcing the House leadership’s decision to start impeachment proceedings against President Trump:*

Good afternoon.

Last Tuesday, we observed the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution on September 17th. Sadly, on that day, the intelligence community inspector general formally notified the Congress that the administration was preventing him from turning over a whistleblower complaint — on Constitution Day. This is a violation of the law. Shortly thereafter, press reports began to break of a phone call by the president of the United States calling upon a foreign power to intervene in his election. This is a breach of his constitutional responsibilities. The facts are these: The intelligence community inspector general, who was appointed by President Trump, determined that the complaint is both of urgent concern and credible, and its disclosure, he went on to say, relates to one of the most significant and important of the director of national intelligence’s responsibility to the American people. On Thursday, the

inspector general testified before the House Intelligence Committee, stating that the acting director of national intelligence blocked him from disclosing the whistleblower complaint. This is a violation of law. The law is unequivocal. ... It says the DNI, director of national intelligence, shall provide Congress the full whistleblower complaint.

For more than 25 years, I’ve served on the Intelligence Committee as a member, as the ranking member, as part of the Gang of Four, even before I was in the leadership. I was there when we created the Office of the Director of National Intelligence — that did not exist before 2004.

I was there even earlier in the ’90s when we wrote the whistleblower laws, and continued to write them, to improve them, to ensure the security of our intelligence and the safety of our whistleblowers. I know what their purpose was, and we proceeded with balance and caution as we wrote the laws. I can say with authority, the Trump administration’s actions undermine both our national security and our intelligence and our protections of the whistleblowers. ... This Thursday, the acting DNI will appear before the House Intelligence Committee. At that time, he must turn over the whistleblower’s full complaint to the committee. He will



MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

**House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) delivers her remarks Sept. 24 on Capitol Hill.**

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have to choose whether to break the law or honor his responsibility to the Constitution.

On the final day of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, when our Constitution was adopted, Americans gathered on the steps of Independence Hall to await the news of the government our founders had crafted. They asked Benjamin Franklin: What do we have — a republic or a monarchy? Franklin replied, “A republic, if you can keep it.” Our responsibility is to keep it. Our republic endures because of the wisdom of our Constitution, enshrined in three coequal branches of government serving as checks and balances on each other.

The actions taken to date by the president have seriously violated the Constitution, especially when the president says, “Article II says I can do whatever I want.” For the past several months we have been investigating in our committees and litigating in the courts so the House can gather all the relevant facts

and consider whether to exercise its full Article I powers, including a constitutional power of the utmost gravity — approval of articles of impeachment. And this week, the president has admitted to asking the president of Ukraine to take actions which would benefit him politically.

The actions of the Trump presidency revealed the dishonorable fact of the president’s betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security and betrayal of the integrity of our elections. Therefore, today, I’m announcing the House of Representatives is moving forward with an official impeachment inquiry. I’m directing our six committees to proceed with their investigations under that umbrella of impeachment inquiry. The president must be held accountable. No one is above the law.

Getting back to our founders: In the darkest days of the American Revolution, Thomas Paine wrote, “The times have found us.” The times found them to fight for and

establish our democracy. The times have found us today — not to place ourselves in the same category of greatness as our founders but to place us in the urgency of protecting and defending our Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic. In the words of Ben Franklin, to keep our republic.

I thank our chairmen . . . Chairman Nadler of Judiciary; Chairman Schiff of Intelligence; Chairman Engel, Foreign Affairs; Chairman Cummings of Oversight. And Chairman Cummings I’ve been in touch with constantly — he’s a master of so much including inspectors general and whistleblowers. [Congressman] Richie Neal of the Ways and Means Committee. Congresswoman Maxine Waters of the Financial Services Committee. And I commend all of our members, our colleagues, for their thoughtful, thoughtful approach to all this, for their careful statements.

God bless them, and God bless America. Thank you all.



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## WordStudy

### A Word About Impeach

It was not an easy decision. Would impeachment be included in the U.S. Constitution? How closely would the procedure follow the English parliamentary model? And, most contentious, which offenses were impeachable?

What is impeachment anyway? Meaning to “impede,” “hinder” or “prevent,” impeach was first used in English in the 1380s. The word comes from the Old French *empechier* that was from the Late Latin *impedicāre*, “to fetter,” “entangle,” or “catch.” Can you see someone with feet in shackles (*pedica*) stopping them from walking? We go from that physical sense to the legal.

Impeachment in England occurred in the 14th century. Criminal proceedings were based on

*On the 18th of December [William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury] was impeached by the Long Parliament, and on the 1st of March imprisoned in the tower. The articles of impeachment were sent up to the Lords in October, the trial beginning on the 12th of March 1644, but the attempt to bring his conduct under a charge of high treason proving hopeless, an attainder was substituted and sent up to the Lords on the 22nd of November.*

— **William Laud**, Archbishop of Canterbury (1573-1645)  
<http://www.luminarium.org/encyclopedia/laud.htm>

“clamour” or outcry,” according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. The proceedings allowed parliament to hold the king’s ministers accountable for their public actions. The first recorded cases of impeachment took place during the Good Parliament

of 1376. The most important was against William, 4th Baron Latimer, who had been closely associated with Edward III. In his case, a method of trial was initiated.

In the U.S., as Alexander Hamilton of New York explained in Federalist 65, impeachment “varies from civil or criminal courts in that it strictly involves the ‘misconduct of public men, or in other words from the abuse or violation of some public trust.’” According to the House of Representatives Archives, “Individual state constitutions had provided for impeachment for ‘maladministration’ or ‘corruption’ before the U.S. Constitution was written. And the founders, fearing the potential for abuse of executive power, considered impeachment so important that they made it part of the Constitution even before they defined the contours of the presidency.”

In Article I, Section 2, Clause 5, the House of Representatives has the “sole Power of Impeachment.” Under current

*Louis made peace with Holland at Nijmegen on the 10th of August, and punished Danby by disclosing his secret negotiations, thus causing the minister's fall and impeachment. To save Danby, Charles now prorogued the parliament on the 30th of December, dissolving it on the 24th of January 1679.*

— **Charles II, King** of Great Britain and Ireland, 1630-1685  
<http://www.luminarium.org/encyclopedia/charles2.htm>

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rules, impeachment inquiry begins in the Judiciary Committee. It is their job to see if there is enough testimony, evidence and disregard of the oath of office to send to the whole House for a vote on the Articles of Impeachment.

Article I, Section 3, gives the Senate “the sole Power to try all Impeachments.” If the House approves the Articles of Impeachment, the Senate holds a trial. Its members are the jury. “When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.” (Clause 6) If two thirds of the Senate vote for impeachment, the President is removed from Office.

*“Before the [Tenure of Office Act] was passed, presidents could fire cabinet members at will. But the law—created to stop Johnson’s attempts to soften Reconstruction for Southern states after the Civil War—wasn’t just any Congressional act. It resulted in an increasingly absurd spiral of one upmanship that culminated in a rare presidential veto, an even rarer congressional override, a sensational impeachment trial that was so well-attended that Congress had to raffle off tickets, and an ongoing conflict over executive power.”*

—“150 Years Ago, a President Could Be Impeached for Firing a Cabinet Member”  
<https://www.history.com/news/andrew-johnson-impeachment-tenure-of-office-act>

### Explore Connections to Impeachment

1. What other English words do you think share the same Latin root as *impedicāre*? Would it help to know that *pedica*, meaning “shackles,” is from the same root?
2. Read more about the impeachment against William, 4th Baron Latimer. What does it tell you about early British concepts of impeachment?
3. What does the U.S. Constitution stipulate about impeachment? You might want to read the National Archives transcription from the parchment on display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum. It keeps the original spelling and punctuation. See <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>.
4. Read more about the impeachment inquiries against U.S. Presidents John Tyler, Andrew Johnson, Richard Nixon, and William J. “Bill” Clinton.
5. What action(s) or statement(s) of President Donald Trump resulted in initiation of an impeachment inquiry?

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## RETROPOLIS

# ‘He lies like a dog’: The first effort to impeach a president was led by his own party

*Long before President Donald Trump, there was President John Tyler*

BY RONALD G. SHAFER

• Originally Published September 23, 2019

On July 22, 1842, Virginia Rep. John Minor Botts rose from his seat in the House of Representatives to introduce the first proposal in U.S. history to impeach a president. The president was fellow Whig John Tyler. Botts vowed to “head him or die.”

Whig Party leader Henry Clay of Kentucky cautioned that impeachment might be a risky way to counter the president’s bitter clashes with the Whig-controlled Congress.

“There is cause enough, God knows,” Clay said, “but it is a novel proceeding, full of important consequences, present and future, and should not be commenced but upon full consideration.”

Some of the rhetoric aimed at Tyler echoes what House Democrats are leveling at President Trump. On Sunday, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam B. Schiff said allegations that Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden’s son may make impeachment inevitable. House Speaker Nancy



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Rep. John Minor Botts, left, circa 1860, and President John Tyler circa 1855.

Pelosi also sent a letter to Republicans and Democrats that demanded more information from the director of national intelligence about Trump’s interactions with Ukraine, but did not use the I-word.

When John Tyler faced impeachment 177 years ago, it was the Whigs who decided to create an investigative committee headed by a respected elder statesman, former president John Quincy Adams, who had become a Massachusetts congressman.

John Tyler was the first vice president to succeed to the presidency in April 1841 when William Henry “Old Tippecanoe” Harrison died

after just one month in office.

The 51-year-old Tyler, a former Democratic U.S. senator from Virginia, had only recently switched to the Whig Party. As president, he began vetoing so many bills passed by Congress that the Whigs kicked him out of their party. Mobs of angry Whigs protested in front of the White House.

The anger boiled over on the House floor, where Rep. Edward Stanly of North Carolina got into a fistfight with Tyler’s best friend, Rep. Henry Wise of Virginia. Stanly complained of Tyler: “He lies like a dog.”

The president was aware of the discontent in Congress. He wrote



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a friend, "I am told that one of the madcaps talks of impeachment." That "madcap" was Botts, who on July 11 gave notice of his plans, warning, "If the power of impeachment is not exercised by the House in less than six months, ten thousand bayonets will gleam on Pennsylvania Avenue."

Eleven days later, Botts formally introduced a petition to impeach Tyler "on the grounds of his ignorance of the interest and true policy of this government, and want of qualification for the discharge of the important duties of President of the United States." The House voted to table the proposal for the time being.

Botts separately specified his charges against Tyler. Among them: "I charge him with the high crime and misdemeanor of endeavoring to excite a disorganizing and revolutionary spirit in the country, by inviting a disregard of, and disobedience to a law of Congress." He charged the president with "abuse of the veto power, to gratify his personal and political resentment," and of being "utterly unworthy and unfit to have the destinies of this nation in his hands as chief magistrate."

The same Democratic newspapers that had pilloried the Whig presidential ticket of "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" defended Tyler and attacked Botts. "The bastard son of Virginia has performed his foolish threat and produced articles of impeachment against the President of the United States," wrote the *Madisonian*.

Clay, who had resigned from the

Senate to prepare to run for president in 1844, feared a voter backlash to a premature impeachment action. "Let [Tyler] serve out his time and go back to Virginia from whence the Whigs have bitter cause to lament that they ever sent him forth," he said.

Botts rejected such concerns.

"There may be some honest but timid men" who fear impeachment efforts would create sympathy for the president, he said. "But to my mind it would be quite as reasonable to suffer a mad dog to escape that runs through the public streets biting every living thing he met with, from an apprehension that it might excite a sympathy for him by the cry of kill him."

The Whigs were especially frustrated because Congress had failed to override any of Tyler's vetoes. The clash hit a breaking point on Aug. 9 when Tyler vetoed a major tariff bill. Adams took to the House floor to declare that the president had put the legislative and executive branches "in a state of civil war."

On Aug. 11, the House authorized a 13-member Select Committee on the Veto headed by Adams to investigate the president's actions. Adams despised Tyler because he was a slaveholder.

The committee reported back just a week later. The majority report accused Tyler of "gross abuse of constitutional power and bold assumptions of powers never vested in him by any law" and of having assumed "the whole legislative power to himself." The report said Tyler had "strangled" the life out of Congress

and committed "offenses of the gravest character." The majority also charged Tyler with obstruction of justice by withholding information needed to investigate the "misdeeds by government."

The majority concluded "the case has occurred" that was "contemplated by the founders of the Constitution by the grant of the power to impeach the President of the United States." However, the report didn't recommend proceeding with impeachment because "of the present state of public affairs."

With the nation sharply divided, the report said, such action would "prove abortive." The House approved the majority report. Tyler responded that he had "been accused without evidence and condemned without a hearing." In a letter to a friend, the president said he apparently had committed the high crime of "sustaining the Constitution of the country and daring to have an opinion of my own."

On Jan. 10, 1843, the House voted on Botts's articles of impeachment. But the Whigs had lost control of the body in the 1842 election, and the resolution failed. Tyler eventually issued a total of 10 vetoes (far below Franklin D. Roosevelt's record 635 vetoes).

The Whigs finally got some revenge in Tyler's final month in office, March 1845, when Congress overrode a veto of a bill on building Marine service ships. Thus, Tyler became the first U.S. president to have a veto overridden.



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## 3 To Inform You

### U.S.-provided bomb-sniffing dogs were neglected overseas, IG report finds.

Why does the U.S. government allow foreign countries to treat highly trained American anti-terrorism investigators like dogs?

They are dogs — but that's beside the point because they also are bomb detection experts.

Consider the case of Athena, a 2-year-old female Belgian Malinois — a breed known for its strong work ethic — sent to Jordan in May 2017. Less than a year later, a State Department veterinary team found her “severely emaciated” and living in a filthy kennel littered with feces, according to a report by the department's Office of Inspector General (OIG).

After being sent back to the United States, Athena was properly fed and nursed back to health, and made a full recovery.

Mencey was not as fortunate. The 3-year-old male Belgian Malinois fell seriously ill with a tick-borne disease in February 2018, seven months after arriving in Jordan. He was sent back to the States, where he was diagnosed with an ailment transmitted by sand flies that caused renal failure. Mencey was euthanized. ...

#### Federal Insider

Joe Davidson, columnist  
*September 18, 2019*

**FOR FULL COLUMN:** [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/these-dogs-make-the-world-safer-but-theyve-been-badly-neglected-inspectors-say/2019/09/16/c8374db0-d898-11e9-adff-79254db7f766\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/these-dogs-make-the-world-safer-but-theyve-been-badly-neglected-inspectors-say/2019/09/16/c8374db0-d898-11e9-adff-79254db7f766_story.html)

**AND ARTICLE:** <https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/09/16/us-officials-knew-bomb-sniffing-dogs-were-dying-neglect-jordan-they-sent-more/>

### Mr. Carson isn't interested

As reported in the Sept. 13 news article “Watchdog clears Carson in probe of furniture buy,” the Department of Housing and Urban Development inspector general concluded that HUD's attempt to procure \$31,000 in dining room furniture resulted from a “systemic failure” of oversight. HUD Secretary Ben Carson declared, “There's probably no one in Washington who cares less about furniture than I do.” I agree. Mr. Carson has no interest in furniture and no interest in the Potemkin village over which he presides.

In point of fact, there was no failure of oversight at HUD. The furniture purchase was stopped because a federal employee put her job on the line to stop it. That official was me: I refused to “find money” for redecorating the secretary's suite and lost my career in public service as a result. The oversight did not fail; it was removed by the same officials who now claim to have been ignorant of it. But Mr. Carson is not interested.

In February 2018, when the details of the furniture purchase were exposed by The Post and others, Mr. Carson still was not interested — instead, he oversaw a smear campaign against me. HUD illegally released sensitive details of my preteen daughter's disabilities to every major media outlet. My daughter's grief is something else that escaped his attention.

What is Mr. Carson interested in? And the electorates who tolerate this in our public officials, what are we interested in?

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Helen Goff Foster, Haymarket  
*September 18, 2019*

### Federal Whistleblowers would do it again, even after retaliation and ‘professional suicide’

The unnamed CIA employee who reported President Trump's effort to use diplomacy with Ukraine for personal political gain has something in common with A. Ernest Fitzgerald — White House wrath.

Fitzgerald was an Air Force senior financial management specialist when he told Congress about a \$2 billion cost overrun on Lockheed C-5A transport planes. That 1968 testimony was followed by other congressional appearances, a government probe of his private life and a smear campaign against him. He was fired in 1970 at the direction of President Richard Nixon, who has something in common with Trump — potential impeachment.

“This guy that was fired,” Nixon bragged in a Jan. 31, 1973, taped White House conversation. “I said get rid of that son of a bitch.”

Fitzgerald eventually was reinstated with back pay. Now Trump wants the CIA employee, whose anonymity is protected by law, to be revealed. “This country has to find out who that person was, because that person is a spy, in my opinion,” Trump said Wednesday. ...

#### PowerPost • Perspective

Joe Davidson, columnist  
*October 4, 2019*

**FOR FULL COLUMN:** <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/04/federal-whistleblowers-would-do-it-again-even-after-retaliation-professional-suicide/>

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An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

### 3 To Inform You | *continued*

1. Journalists, in particular those on investigative teams, serve as watchdogs for the benefit of citizens. They report on wrongdoing to protect society and to keep those in power accountable for their actions. Read “U.S.-provided bomb-sniffing dogs were neglected overseas, IG report finds.”
  - a. Davidson provides two examples at the beginning of his column. Compare and contrast them.
  - b. What makes the neglect especially egregious?
  - c. Summarize the point of Davidson’s column.
  - d. His source is a report of the Inspector General of the State Department. What is the OIG?
  - e. Do we get an answer to the question in the lede in the first paragraphs?
  
2. Read “Mr. Carson isn’t interested.” This is an example of a letter to the editor.
  - a. Why does *The Post* and other news publications accept and print letters to the editor?
  - b. What was the finding of the HUD inspector general?
  - c. The writer disagrees with the conclusion of the IG report. What gives her authority?
  - d. In addition to the professional ramification of her action, what personal action affected her?
  - e. What is your answer to her last question?
  
3. Read Joe Davidson’s “Federal Whistleblowers would do it again, even after retaliation and ‘professional suicide.’”
  - a. Davidson makes a connection between current news and an event in 1968. What is the connection?
  - b. What is a whistleblower?
  - c. The Whistleblower Protection Act was passed in 1989 and revised “to strengthen and improve protection for the rights of federal employees to prevent reprisals, and to help eliminate wrongdoing within the Government.” What retaliation against A. Ernest Fitzgerald might have been prevented if it had existed in 1968?
  - d. Do you think the identity of whistleblowers should be protected or revealed?
  
4. The Office of the Inspector General investigates and audits to detect and prevent fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement. There are 73 federal offices and additional state inspectors general. Select a cabinet department. Read about actions that this department’s inspector general or OIG has taken. Summarize the case and action taken.
  
5. Reporters will use reports of federal agencies, scientific and medical groups and businesses as one source of information for an article. What federal or state agency report might your school community (faculty and staff, students and their families) be interested? Explain why.