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Adams, Butterfield Support Impeachment Of Trump

By Cash Michaels
NCBPA

Now that Congress is back in session, there are plenty of issues that lawmakers must address, including raising the national debt ceiling; financial relief for Texas after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey; and paying for that wall Pres. Trump still insists Mexico will ultimately underwrite...one way or another.

But amid that spoken agenda, is intense behind-the-scenes strategizing on the part of the 49-member Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to have Republican President Donald J. Trump impeached.

"When members return to Congress in September, the CBC will have a robust discussion on #Impeachment," an August 22nd tweet from the CBC announced.

Impeaching a US president is the process in which a legislative body (constitutionally the US House) formally levels serious charges (indictments) against a sitting commander-in-chief. It is the first step towards the removal of a president from office. If a president is to be removed (or effectively convicted of said charges), then the US Senate votes accordingly. The most recent president to be impeached was Bill Clinton in December 1998, but the Senate acquitted Clinton in February 1999.

While things went sour fast between the CBC and Pres. Trump shortly after he took office in January, it was Trump's moral equivocation between armed white supremacists and mostly unarmed counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Va. on August 12th - a violent confrontation which resulted in the alleged murder of a counter-protester with a car driven by a neo-Nazi - that convinced members of the CBC, along with many Democrat and Republican colleagues, that neither Trump, nor key officials in his administration, possessed the moral standing to lead the nation.

And several days later, when the president doubled-down on his position by calling white nationalists "fine people," the outrage from the CBC could not be contained.

"You can make an argument based on pure competency and fitness to serve, and that's the conversation the caucus will have," CBC Chairman Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA), told reporters during a teleconference two weeks ago, noting that the CBC was also committed to ridding white supremacists from the federal government, and certainly from the Trump administration.

"I never thought I would see the day when the president of the United States would openly defend white supremacists," Rep. Richmond later said in a statement. "I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to hold this president accountable."

North Carolina's two black congresspeople were also outraged, and joined the CBC chair in saying so.

"President Trump has tragically become the divisive demagogue we feared he would be," said Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC-12) in an August 16th statement, in which she also called Trump's comments "erratic and despicable."

"Upon election, he took a sacred oath to represent every American, regardless of race, religion, or creed yet sadly President Trump has failed at this most basic responsibility. Instead of being a steady leader in a time of national crisis, he has recklessly turned to the podium

to once again make a mockery of the Presidency and of the citizens he swore to serve."

"We can no longer justify or tolerate these actions," Rep. Adams continued. "I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do what this President has failed to do. It is time for us to stand united and resolute

remarks showed he has little concern for the welfare of black students or their communities.

"Not only do I think it should be postponed, it shouldn't have been happening in the first place," Richmond told reporters. "This White House isn't serious about improving our HBCUs... They brought all those HBCU

presidents to town, they took a picture in the Oval Office, and then they did nothing."

Adams had equal condemnation.

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called for the impeachment of Trump (Green has actually drafted articles of impeachment on charges of obstruction), based largely on allegations of campaign collusion with the Russians stemming from the 2016 presidential campaign. An ongoing US Justice Dept investigation is still probing



The Friends of the Stanford L. Warren Branch Library hosted a screening and conversation on the documentary "Hayti Legacies: Thank God for the Journey" with an all African American woman panel who shared their experiences and remembrances of the "Hayti" community. Reading left to right is Andre D. Vann, President, Friends of S. L. Warren Branch Library, Caroline Green Boone, Documentarian, Beverly Barnes Evans, Convener of the panel, Lou Suitt Barnes (95 years old), Catherine Ferrell (104 years old), Maggie P. Bryant (102 years old) and the youngest Mildred O. Page (93 years old) on Monday, September 11, in the Warren Branch Auditorium. Greetings were brought by NC Rep. Maryann Black and Durham Councilwoman Cora Cole-McFadden in the afternoon program that featured telling community stories.

in our efforts to fight racism, bigotry, and hate. In the absence of a true leader, Congress must step up and defend our progress, unify our nation, and hold this administration accountable."

Rep. Adams' Tar Heel colleague, Rep. G. K. Butterfield (D-NC-1), the immediate past chairman of the CBC, was equally disturbed.

"I was disappointed that President Trump waited two days before specifically condemning the Charlottesville terror attack and the violence perpetrated by white supremacist groups," Butterfield said in an August 15th statement. "His failure to not immediately and powerfully condemn these terror groups by name was a clear message that he is supportive of or indifferent to their cause based on ideology or politics, either of which is unacceptable for an American president."

Members of the CBC had met with Trump in March after he was inaugurated, but in June, they decided to cancel a followup meeting, saying that not only did they not see any evidence that he had acted on any of the important issues they had initially discussed, but that there was evidence of White House policies that would "affirmatively hurt Black communities."

One such example was a followup conference the president is planning to have with the presidents and chancellors of historically black colleges and universities soon. The first was held last February.

Both representatives Richmond, and Adams, who is the co-chair of the HBCU Bipartisan Caucus in Congress, asked Trump to cancel that gathering in the aftermath of his controversial comments about Charlottesville.

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"HBCU leaders came to the White House in February and presented a substantive and well-thought-out agenda with specific action-items for the administration to pursue immediately. Almost 180 days later, nothing has happened and no response has been given. It would be more productive to hear from the President directly or from his Secretary of Education about what progress they are making on the HBCUs' request before asking Presidents to come back to Washington for another photo-op."

Rep. Adams added, "I call on the President and [Education] Secretary DeVos to postpone this year's conference until a serious effort has been made to advance issues important to HBCUs and their students."

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Unincorporated community sues town for racial discrimination

WALNUT COVE, N.C. (AP) - A predominantly black unincorporated community is suing an adjacent North Carolina town after a decades-long fight for annexation.

The Winston-Salem Journal reports the 73-household Walnut Tree Community Association and four individuals filed a lawsuit Thursday against the predominantly white town of Walnut Cove, alleging racial discrimination.

K&L Gates Law Firm, which represents the plaintiffs, says the lawsuit is an attempt to accelerate annexation so Walnut Tree community members can participate in town elections and receive the benefits and services available to town residents, including reduced water-sewer service rates.

Litigation ban leaves civil rights center future in question

By MARTHA WAGGONER

CHAPEL HILL (AP) - The civil rights center at the University of North Carolina that helps the poor and disenfranchised can no longer litigate cases - a move that supporters say jeopardizes the center's future.

The policy-making board of the UNC system voted overwhelmingly Sept. 8 to ban litigation by the UNC Center for Civil Rights, which handles issues such as school desegregation and environmental justice.

Board members maintained that the vote didn't show a lack of support for civil rights, saying legal clinics can handle similar cases. "This is not a vote one way or the other on the UNC School of Law or the civil rights center. It's about a particular aspect of the civil rights center work," board Chairman Lou Bissette said.

Center supporters disagreed, and protesters outside chanted phrases such as "If we don't get no justice, then you don't get no peace." Their chants could be heard through parts of the meeting.

And as he left the meeting, center managing attorney Mark Dorosin yelled at the board members that they weren't being honest about their support for civil rights. When one complained that Dorosin was out of order, he yelled, "You're out of order. To say you support civil rights is out of order."

Dorosin and Ted Shaw, the center's executive director, said they didn't know what form the center would take in the future. While it could continue to exist, its attorneys wouldn't be able to continue the work they do now.

They said they would begin working immediately on where to take that work, whether to another, a new law firm or some other entity.

Supporters of the ban said they opposed the center's lawsuits against other government entities and that academic centers should concentrate on academics.

Board member Steve Long, who first proposed the ban, said the university represents poor people and minorities through law school clinics. "Our commitment to civil rights is strong, including mine," he said.

Anna Spangler Nelson, a board member who opposed the ban while chairing the committee that recommended it, said she feared the ban and the publicity surrounding it would harm UNC's reputation. "For some, this is trespassing on sacred ground," she said.

The center was founded in 2001 by famed civil rights attorney Julius Chambers, whose car, home and office were bombed as he pursued school desegregation cases in the 1960s and 1970s. While the ban applies to all academic centers on UNC campuses, it only stops the work of the civil rights center, which was the only one that handled litigation.

The vote came at a time of turmoil on the Chapel Hill campus, where the center is located. Students have pushed for the removal of a Confederate statue on campus known as Silent Sam and held a sit-in that grew out of the violent rally in August in Charlottesville, Virginia.