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## Trump's Latest Racist Attack Hits Baltimore as He Continues to Build Steady Narrative of Hate

By Lauren Victoria Burke, NNPA Newswire Contributor

Recently, President Trump launched another racist attack on an African American member of Congress and the people he represents.

"Rep, Elijah Cummings has been a brutal bully, shouting and screaming at the great men & women of Border Patrol about conditions at the Southern Border, when actually his Baltimore district is FAR WORSE and more dangerous," Trump wrote on Twitter. "His district is considered the Worst in the USA."

"As proven last week during a Congressional tour, the Border is clean, efficient & well run, just very crowded. Cumming District is a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess. If he spent more time in Baltimore, maybe he could help clean up this very dangerous & filthy place," Trump continued, spelling Rep. Cummings' name incorrectly.

Reports, video and still photography from the Mexican border focused on conditions for those detained by U.S. authorities, verify President that Trump is lying. Conditions on our southern border have been described as unsanitary and inhuman. A visit by Vice President Pence on July 12 showed video confirming earlier reports of bad conditions for those detained.

Trump's latest attack on a Black lawmaker and his majority Black constituency is nothing new. Rep. Cummings represents Baltimore, which is 60 percent Black and 34 percent white. CNN anchor Victor Blackwell, who hails from Baltimore, took notice of Trump's habit of using the words "infested" or "infestation" when referring to people of color.

"That's usually reserved for references to rodents and insects, but we've seen the president invoke infestation to criticize lawmakers before," Blackwell stated on the air recently.

"You see a pattern here? Just two weeks ago President Trump attacked four minority congresswomen. 'Why don't they go back to the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came.' Reminder, three of them were born here; all of them are American. Infested he says," the African American CNN anchor added.

Trump also used the word "infestation" in 2017 when he attacked civil rights icon and Congressman John Lewis, who represents parts of Atlanta.

"Mr. President, I go home to my district daily," Rep. Cummings responded to Trump on Twitter. "Each morning, I wake up, and I go and fight for my neighbors. It is my constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the Executive Branch. But, it is my moral duty to fight for my constituents," Cummings said.

Cummings told ABC News that Trump's "go back" remarks aimed at the four congresswomen, Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), brought back memories of the racism he faced growing up in Baltimore in the 1960s.

Reaction to Trump's latest racist tirade was swift.

Baltimore Mayor Bernard C. Jack Young wrote that Trump's statement was, "completely unacceptable for the political leader of our country to denigrate a vibrant American City like Baltimore, and to viciously attack U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings, a patriot and a hero."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), whose father, Thomas D'Alesandro Jr., was the 39th Mayor of Baltimore from 1947 to 1959, and brother, Thomas D'Alesandro III, was Mayor of Baltimore from 1967 to 1971, defended Rep. Cummings and condemned Trump as racist.

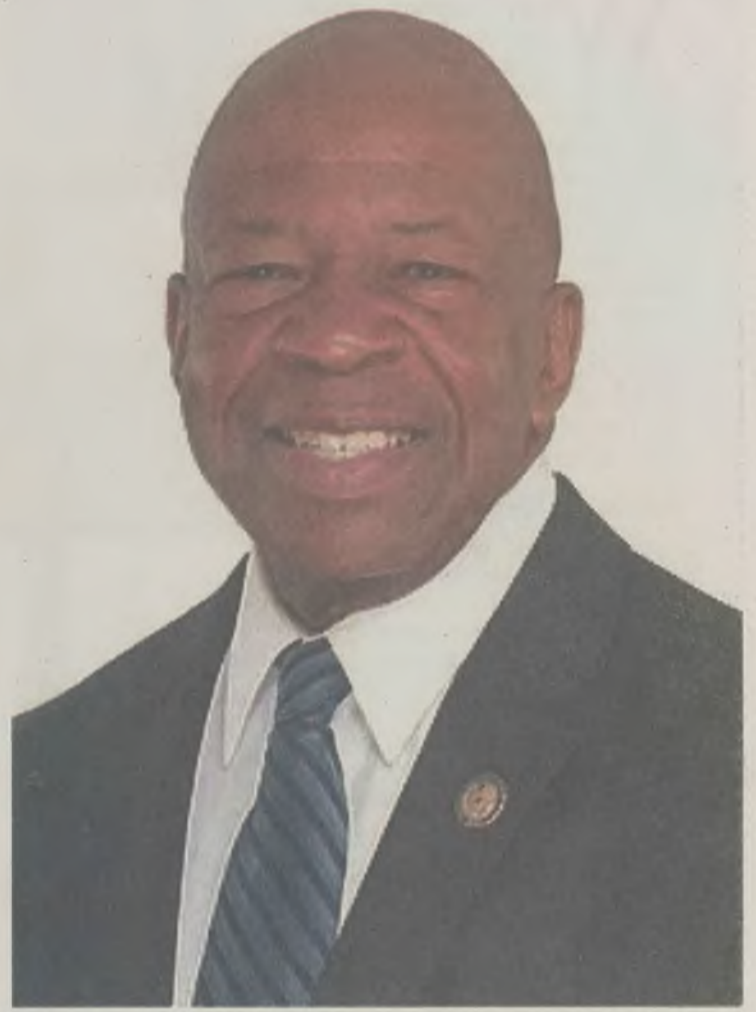
"@RepCummings is a champion in the Congress and the country for civil rights and economic justice, a beloved leader in Baltimore, and deeply valued colleague. We all reject racist attacks against him and support his steadfast leadership. #ElijahCummingsIsAPatriot," wrote Speaker Pelosi.

After a torrent of recent racial invective by the current President, commentators on both sides of the political isle are routinely referring to the President's statements as the most racist they have seen in a lifetime. Few can find a President of the United States whose racist beliefs were so public.

Writing recently in The Atlantic on Trump's attacks on Rep. Ilhan Omar, Adam Serwer pointed out, "To attack Omar is to attack a symbol of the demographic change that is eroding white cultural and political hegemony, the defense of which is Trumpism's only sincere political purpose."

"This is not about Omar anymore... It is about defending the idea that America should be a country for all its people. If multiracial democracy cannot be defended in America, it will not be defended elsewhere. What Americans do now, in the face of this, will define us forever," Serwer concluded.

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REP. ELIJAH CUMMINGS

### Durham Branch NAACP) to Meet

The Durham Branch of the NAACP will meet Sunday, July 28 at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 305 E Main Street. The public is invited to attend. Rev. Rachel Green, president.

## Register to Vote

## Review: Looking back at Mike Wallace, who made 'em

By JOCELYN NOVECK  
AP National Writer

Vladimir Putin, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Ku Klux Klan leader Eldon Edwards. Bette Davis, Barbra Streisand, Shirley MacLaine, Eleanor Roosevelt.

If they were famous \_ or infamous \_ they likely sat across from newsman Mike Wallace at some point during his seven-decade career. And he made 'em all squirm, as filmmaker Avi Belkin shows in his absorbing new documentary, "Mike Wallace Is Here."

Belkin had crucial access to CBS archives, including those of "60 Minutes," the show that made Wallace famous. And watching all this footage, the undercurrent is unspoken but obvious: How would Wallace, with his famous take-no-prisoners style, handle President Donald Trump?

Alas, Wallace died in 2012, so we must make do with a brief few moments of the newsman with Trump in his late 30s, a brash young tycoon who suggests \_ surprise! \_ that he'd be better at negotiating arms control agreements than diplomats in Washington.

"There's a new billionaire in town \_ Trump's the name," Wallace begins. He asks the young magnate what he plans to do with the next 40 years. "There are so many things to do," Trump says. "Politics?" asks Wallace.

"No, not politics," Trump replies. (It's worth noting that Wallace's son Chris, of the Fox News Channel, has irked Trump enough to earn a recent tweet from the president: "I like Mike Wallace better.")

Iso included are some prickly conversations between Wallace and his "60 Minutes" colleagues, as he approached retirement. One gets the sense Wallace wasn't thrilled about having the tables turned with questions about his own life.

That's probably why the film focuses almost exclusively on Wallace's work, not his personal life, including his multiple marriages or his struggles with depression. It's also why it's shocking when he tells colleague Morley Safer what he has until then denied: that during a bout of depression, he once swallowed pills in a suicide attempt.

A quick look at Wallace's early life begins in Brookline, Massachusetts, where as an adolescent he was so ashamed of his pockmarked face that he yearned for gray days, not sunny ones.

In his early TV years, he was a pitchman, for everything from cigarettes to shortening ("Man, that's some apple pie.")

In his first interview show, "Night Beat," which premiered in 1956, he sat close to his subjects, smoke billowing from his ubiquitous cigarette. Here was launched his confrontational style: he asks Eleanor Roosevelt why people hate her and her husband.

The show moved to ABC, then was canceled in 1958. A few years later in 1962, he experienced tragedy: his older son, Peter, died in a mountain-climbing accident in Greece. Wallace resolved himself to commit to hard-edged journalism.

He arrived at CBS, where he was seen by some as an overly slick interloper. Success came, though, with "60 Minutes," which premiered in 1968 and became an unexpected hit, launching a dynasty and a new genre, the TV newsmagazine.

One of the most compelling clips in Belkin's film is a Wallace interview with Putin, which starts out in an almost folksy way, but soon gets uncomfortable as Wallace quizzes the Russian leader about his treatment of journalists, about corruption, about whether Russia is a democracy. You can see Putin's eyes narrow and harden in anger.

Then there's Wallace's interview with Khomeini in Tehran in 1979, in which he goes beyond the expected topics \_ to the consternation of the official translator. He tells the Iranian leader that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt "calls you \_ forgive me, his words, not mine \_ a lunatic." But he gets his response: a harsh criticism of Sadat.

Perhaps the most chilling moment in the film is Wallace's famous interview with Paul Meadlo, a U.S. soldier involved in the massacre of more than 100 villagers, including children, at My Lai in Vietnam.

"How do you shoot babies?" Wallace asks.

Meadlo squirms, and talks about orders. There is, of course, no decent answer, and Meadlo said later he regretted going on TV.

Like so many of Wallace's subjects, he didn't quite know what he was getting into. "Mike Wallace Is Here," a Magnolia Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "for thematic material, some violent images, language and smoking." Running time: 90 minutes. Three stars out of four.

MPAA definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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