STEVE KING
4TH DISTRICT, IOWA

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–1504

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
JUDICIARY
SMALL BUSINESS

December 16, 2020

The Honorable Theodore Deutch
Chairman
House Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kenny Marchant
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Deutch and Ranking Member Kenny Marchant:

I write today to request that the House Committee on Ethics open an investigation into the overtly concerted effort to wrongly appropriate the authorities vested in the United States House of Representatives to deprive me and my constituents of equal representation in this body, with the ultimate objective of undermining my political and public office. I have been found to have violated neither U.S. law nor the Code of Official Conduct, and yet I find myself having to prove negative after negative, without even the feigned consideration of due process.

Both the law of our nation and this body, as well as the facts, testify in my defense. I have broken no law, nor have I run afoul of the ethics of this body. In fact, those that know me well, and even those who only know me only in passing, commonly testify that my entire life has been in commitment to my faith, family, business, and upholding the U.S. Constitution and the Rule of Law. I am known as a person of principle and perseverance and even when others disagree with my positions, they know that I say what I mean and mean what I say. As both an entrepreneur and public servant, I have never sought to selfishly enrich myself, but rather help as many constituents, Iowans, Americans and humans as possible.

Worse than being disciplined for no substantive wrongdoing, either in law or according to the ethics of the House, is that I have been denied any semblance of due process. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has confirmed that I am the only Member in searchable history who has been removed from all of my committee assignments, having never been accused or convicted of criminal wrongdoing or having renounced my political party or affiliation. When one considers that there is no searchable history to substantiate the actions taken against me, one must necessarily inquire the reason(s) for which I have been singled out for punishment by those who cannot justify their actions based on the law, official rules or congressional precedent.

While I have been stunned and distressed to witness the unjust treatment of myself and my constituents at the hands of my own leadership, I cannot say that it caught me completely unaware. I know I am suffering due to a coordinated plot, because I was made aware of its existence before it was executed. Shortly before the release of the January 2019 New York

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Times hit piece on me, which was instantaneously used to justify the actions taken by the Republican Steering Committee, under the leadership of Minority Leader McCarthy, I was given a heads up by a trusted friend and professional connection that, having failed to defeat me in the recently passed November 2018 general election, my opponents were ready to take another shot, even before the new Congress assembled and nearly two years in advance of the 2020 election cycle.

The second shot that my confidante informed me of quickly materialized, beginning with the release of a libelous New York Times hit piece that completely mischaracterized my words to make them appear racially motivated when they were nothing of the sort, followed up by the Republican Steering Committee announcing that I would not have any committee assignments only a day after the Minority Leader announced on the Sunday news that action would be taken against me for the libelous New York Times hit piece. This action was pre-planned and fashioned, although the Minority Leader had never at that point even asked me, a Republican Member and representative of all Iowans residing in the 4th District, if this highly unreliable and ideological source had accurately portrayed the supposed quote at issue.

Although this omission on the part of the Minority Leader may seem incredible to many, I unfortunately have come to understand it completely. Nothing was a coincidence, and nothing was an organic occurrence in the political attack that has been directed at me through the authorities of the House of Representatives and with the misuse of taxpayer dollars.

To date, I have not released the names of the individual(s) who have informed me of this plot. However, they are willing to provide necessary information to the Committee to ensure the integrity of the House and its official business in the interest of all of our citizens, including each of the nearly three-quarters of a million in Northwest Iowa that I have had the wonderful privilege and blessing to represent these 18 years (and many even longer than that in my office as a State Senator). All of us deserved the standing of being equals in this society, and have grievously been denied it at the hands of the leadership of my own party. This is a fact I greatly regret.

The U.S. Constitution does not allow the people's House to be used as a cover for party machines and bosses. Using power and position to manufacture and perpetrate dishonest political narratives, complete with distortions and outright lies camouflaged as facts under the cover of official congressional business, is a gross and repugnant violation of the American people who are the very constituent parts of this government. Such malfeasance is an offense to the very notion of democratic governance, and a long-standing opponent of those who have yearned for liberty throughout the ages as well as those who still do. In plain terms, it is corruption and it is cronyism. It is an absolute ethical and moral failing.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Accordingly, after the House Committee on Ethics thoroughly investigates this matter and makes its recommendations, I urge you to make all appropriate referrals to the Department of Justice for further investigation, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Steve King

Steve King (IA-04)
Member of Congress
3897 Esther Ave.
Kiron, IA 51448

NOTARIAL SEAL IOWA
APRIL JEAN ROEDER
Commission Number 811085
My Commission Expires
June 15, 2021

April J Roeder

Signed and sworn to before me on 12/18/2020 by Congressman Steve King (IA-04) setting forth in simple, concise, and direct statements—

(1) the name and legal address of the party filing the complaint (hereinafter referred to as the "complainant");

(2) the name and position or title of the respondent(s);

(3) the nature of the alleged violation of the Code of Official Conduct or of other law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of duties or discharge of responsibilities; and

(4) the facts alleged to give rise to the violation. The complaint shall not contain innuendo, speculative assertions, or conclusory statements.

STEVE KING
4TH DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE

JUDICIARY

SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–1504

December 16, 2020

I, Steve King, certify that I have provided an exact copy of the filed complaint and all attachments to the respondent.

Sincerely,

Steve King

Steve King (IA-04)
Member of Congress

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Commission Number 811085
My Commission Expires
June 15, 2021

April J Roeder

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Statements of Fact

Whereas I, Congressman Steve King, am and have remained over the course of my tenure in Congress, a Member in good standing;

Whereas there has been a coordinated Republican plot to remove my congressional seat from me, for which I was duly elected by my constituents in Iowa's 4th Congressional District;

This plot has involved such figures as Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Congressman Steve Stivers from Ohio;

Whereas on October 30, 2018, just days prior to the general election, Congressman Stivers tweeted: "Congressman Steve King's recent comments, actions, and retweets are completely inappropriate. We must stand up against white supremacy and hate in all forms, and I strongly condemn this behavior."

Whereas on November 5, 2018, the evening before for the 2018 general election, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy called me and said that he was not aware of Congressman Stivers' tweet, indicating a very odd situation since a Republican member is tweeting against another Republican member and the conference leader is seemingly unaware;

Whereas I prevailed in my 2018 general reelection, but it was despite a clearly coordinated attack in the days and weeks prior in an attempt to make the term "white supremacy" stick to me, even though I have never adopted or espoused any racist ideology.

Whereas the Washington Post has been a driver of this false narrative, in additional to Congressman Steve Stivers, leading up to the November 2018 general election.

Whereas the attempt to unseat me did not stop after I won the 2018 general election;
Whereas on the day prior to Thanksgiving 2018, I was given a heads up on the existence and nature of the plot;

Whereas on Monday January 14, 2019, Minority Leader McCarthy scheduled a meeting with me, and gave me one hour to prove a negative to him – that I was not a white supremacist as the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Congressman Steve Stivers had alleged.

Whereas this was disingenuous on the part of Minority Leader McCarthy, since he had been on the Sunday news circuit the day before and already promised that action would be taken against me;

Whereas shortly after the McCarthy meeting I would find out I would be removed from all my committees for the 116th Congress, which was just coincidentally (conveniently) just commencing that same week (this meant that procedurally I could be removed by simply not seating me);

Whereas on March 6, 2019, I issued a Fact Check document (attached) that laid out my case and definitively disproved that my actual words or beliefs was the origin of the coordinated and manufactured smear campaign which had been launched against me;

Whereas Minority Leader McCarthy, despite at times placing the responsibility for my removal on the Steering Committee, has taken credit for removing me from my committees;

Whereas Minority Leader McCarthy can no longer assume plausible deniability, as he has privately and publicly played all sides, and he will have to assume his share of the blame;

Whereas Minority Leader McCarthy has told me personally he would advocate to the Steering Committee for me to be restored to my Committees;

Whereas having spoken to the members of the Steering Committee myself, I know that Minority Leader McCarthy has in fact not advocated for me but that a significant majority sympathized and expressed support for restoration to my committees;

Whereas Minority Leader McCarthy, in attacking me, has willfully misstated the facts, stating that the rape and incest exceptions to abortion are part of the Republican Party platform (this is patently and verifiably untrue);

Whereas Minority Leader McCarthy chose to believe the lying New York Times over a Republican Member in good standing who has never been credibly accused of any kind of dishonesty;

Whereas Minority Leader McCarthy has continued this nonsensical and unsupportable position despite having been given a copy of my Fact Check document, which, though published and distributed for 21 months has never been refuted in any way;

Whereas Minority Leader McCarthy and party leadership are intent on believe the lying New York Times, regardless of how untenable their position is.

Therefore: I write today to request that the House Committee on Ethics open an investigation into the overtly concern effort to wrongly appropriate the authorities vested in the United States House of Representatives to deprive me and my constituents of equal representation in this body, with the ultimate objective of undermining my political and public office.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2019

CONTACT: John Kennedy
Office: 202-225-4426

Memo: Fact Checking the New York Times Misquote of Steve King

UPDATED: February 3, 2020

Washington, D.C.- Congressman Steve King releases this memo as a service to the constituents of Iowa's 4th Congressional District. The memo lays out important information concerning the recent misquote of Congressman Steve King by the New York Times. King encourages interested parties to consider this important information as they form their opinions on the matter.

Fact Checking the New York Times Misquote of Steve King

Allegation: In a quote attributed to him by the ***New York Times***, King is alleged to have wondered when the phrases "White nationalist, white supremacist, Western Civilization" became offensive, suggesting to some that he does not view the first two terms as disparaging.

King's response: King has consistently disputed this interpretation, maintaining that he was simply trying to ask when the phrase "Western Civilization" had gained a pejorative connotation, an assertion that is supported by the remaining section of the ***Times'*** quote.

King says the conversation in which this quote is alleged to happen was about the left's use of weaponized language: "*we discussed the changing use of language in political discourse. We discussed the worn out label "racist" and my observation that other slanderous labels have been increasingly assigned to Conservatives by the Left, who injected into our current political dialog such terms as Nazi, Fascist, 'White Nationalist, White Supremacist,— Western Civilization, how did THAT language become offensive? Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and our civilization?'...just to watch Western Civilization become a derogatory term in political discourse today.*"

Notably, none of the context of the discussion which spawned the "quote" was included in the New York Times story. This context would have added greater clarity to King's reported remarks, revealing that his intention was to question the inclusion of "WESTERN CIVILIZATION" alone as a pejorative.

Important Facts:

- **No tape of the interview with the *New York Times* exists and the paper refuses to release the reporter's notes of the conversation.**

- **The content of the Times "quote" makes it clear that King was ONLY talking about "Western Civilization".**

  The "quote": "White Nationalist, white Supremacist, Western civilization--- how did THAT language become offensive? Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and our civilization?"

  NOBODY IN AMERICA EVER SAT IN A CLASS about the merits of White Nationalism or White Supremacism. The incorrect interpretation that has been given to this "quote" refutes itself based on the "quoted" sentence's own construction.

- **Mark Steyn, hosting Rush Limbaugh's show on January 18, explains the Times' game:** *"That's not a good faith interview request."*

  Said Steyn:

  "He made a mistake, Steve King. He agreed to give an interview on national immigration policy to the New York Times. That's not a good faith interview request. They're only asking you, and he should know this, they're only asking you to stitch you up. To talk to you for three hours and get you to use one phrase in there that they can lift out and kill you with."

  . . .

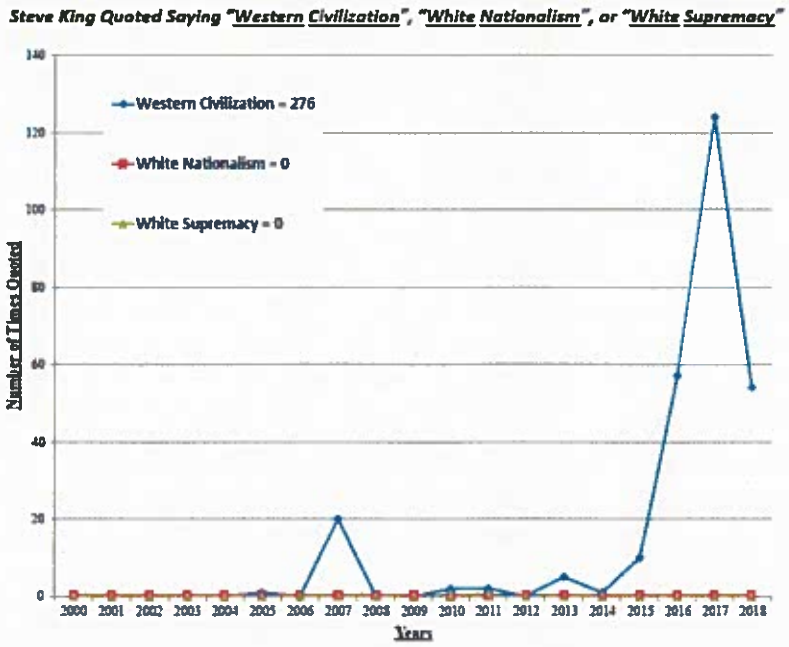
  *"This guy, Steve King, was trapped, trapped! **The words he said about 'when did that become controversial,' he meant the phrase 'Western Civilization.'** He's not a white supremacist. He's not a white nationalist. It's all stupid talk. So you've just surrendered the phrase 'Western Civilization.' I don't get that. I don't see what's in it for conservatism in surrendering that phrase, in accepting the leftist's view that the term 'Western Civilization' is beyond the pale."*

- **Contemporaneous evidence supports King's version of story:** In a ***Christian Science Monitor*** article published on 1/15/19 (5 days after the ***Times*** story broke) King is quoted

making a similar argument: *"In a conversation with the Monitor just before the holidays, King defended himself against accusations of racism. The left, he says, has weaponized terms like "racist," "Nazi," and "white nationalist," using them against anyone who dares to defend American values or the Constitution. "There are people that don't like America the way it is," he says, "and there are people that don't like America when she was at her best. They want to tear down the systems we have. I don't believe that. I think our Founding Fathers got it right.*

However, this ***CSM*** interview occurred prior to the release of the ***Times*** article, and shows how King had been making a variation of this argument at the approximate time he spoke to the ***Times*** reporter. In this case, though, the CSM actually published it in the context in which it was made. It is clear that King was making a similar argument to the Times.

- The quote in the ***CSM*** is the FIRST DOCUMENTED INSTANCE of Steve King ever using the phrase "white nationalist." This is an important point, because King has asserted that *"That ideology never shows up in my head. I don't know how it could possibly come out of my mouth."* A Lexis-Nexis search dating back to 2000 shows King has never used any of the following phrases: "white nationalism," "white nationalist," "white supremacist," or "white supremacy." In the same time frame, King is quoted 276 times using the term "Western Civilization."



Based on this data, it appears unlikely that King spontaneously used the phrases "white nationalist" and "white supremacist" in his discussion with the ***Times*** reporter, as they were never common elements of his speech. It suggests that King was repeating terms fed to him by the ***Times.***

- The contention that King reacted to the ***Times*** reporter's use of the phrases "white nationalist," "white supremacist" and "western civilization" as pejoratives is supported by the body of the ***Times*** article itself.

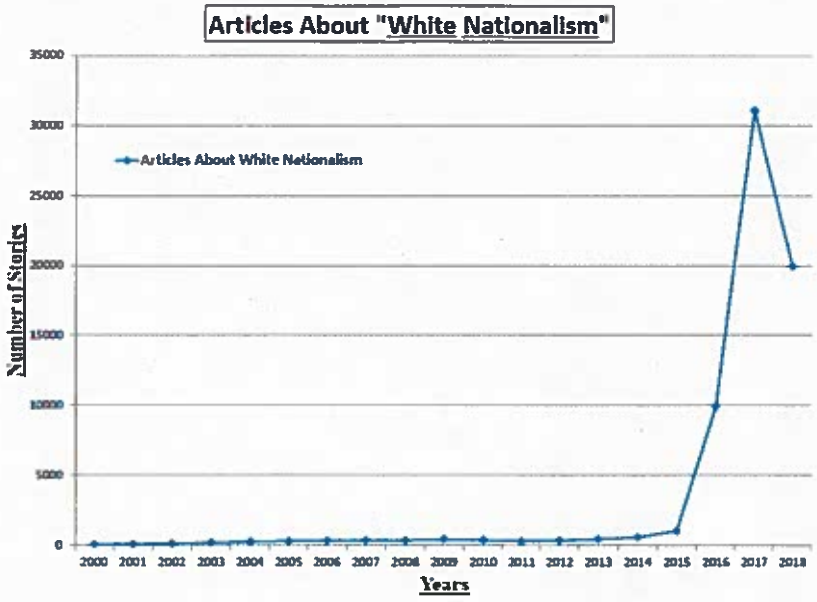
  The article contains the following passage, likely written prior to the King interview: *"Elected to Congress in 2002, Mr. King attracted the attention of hate-watch groups like the Anti-Defamation League as he spoke increasingly about preserving **'Western Culture'** or **"Western Civilization**.' The groups consider those buzzwords that signal support to white nationalists, along with an obsession with birthrates and abortion rates among different ethnic groups."*

  Doesn't it make more sense that the reporter asked a question in which "Western Civilization" was linked with the offensive epithets, and King responded by wondering how it came to be that the meritorious phrase "Western Civilization" became a similar pejorative? Certainly, the answer he is alleged to have given fits with this belief.

- The point King was attempting to make about the Left's use of labels to smear conservatives, labels which now include even the concept of "Western Civilization" itself, is supported by Lexis-Nexis data. Since 2015 there has been an explosive increase in the use of the labels "White Supremacist," "White Supremacy," "White Nationalist," and "White Nationalism." This squares closely with what Congressman King told Dave Price of WHO-TV regarding the phrase "White Nationalist": *"It is a derogatory term today. I wouldn't have thought so maybe a year or two or three ago. Today they use it as a derogatory term, and it implies that you are a racist."*

  In his statement, King was trying to put into words his entirely accurate observation that the term "white nationalist" has been weaponized by the left against conservatives, and that its use in this form has markedly increased over the past several years.

  King's point about the increased frequency with which the weaponized term "white nationalist" has been injected into modern political dialogue is evident when data from a Lexis-Nexis News Database search is analyzed.



As King told Price, it has only been in the last "year or two or three" that the pejorative phrase "white nationalist" has gained purchase in the political debate as a weaponized term.

- ***"Completely Bogus":*** A follow up ***New York Times*** story about Steve King entitled "*A Timeline of Steve King's Racist Remarks and Divisive Actions*" was criticized by legendary journalist Brit Hume as being "completely bogus." This "completely bogus" story was written the next day by the same writer, in the same paper, on the same general topic, and could possibly be revealing of a bias regarding Congressman King.

- The ***Congressional Record*** made the exact same error as the ***New York Times*** in transcribing King's 1/15/19 floor statement, when the transcriptionist left out a break between the words "white supremacist" and "western civilization." Video shows King intentionally inserting a break between those words, but the transcript does not reflect this.

  No one believes the ***Congressional Record*** was acting with animus. But their error did reveal how either a similar error, or an intentional misplacement of punctuation, could have led to a botched quote in the times. Remember, King has always disputed the quote as it was portrayed in the ***Times.***

King is insisting upon a correction in the ***Congressional Record*** so that it reflects the quote as he intentionally delivered it on the House floor. King's correction reveals that he was attempting to separate "Western Civilization" from the other two pejorative terms.

New York Times/Congressional record mistaken quote: *"White Nationalist, White Supremacist, Western Civilization---how did THAT language become offensive? Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and our civilization?'"*

Corrected quote: *"White Nationalist, White Supremacist,— Western Civilization, how did THAT language become offensive? Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and our civilization?'"*

One misplaced hyphen in the NY Times story gave birth to a meritless controversy, by falsely implying that Congressman King did not differentiate between the three phrases.

- **Steve King has no accusers.** In the case of Brett Kavanaugh and the students from Covington High School, they had accusers whose claims could be rebutted. King has no accusers. No one has ever come forward to state that King has treated them improperly.

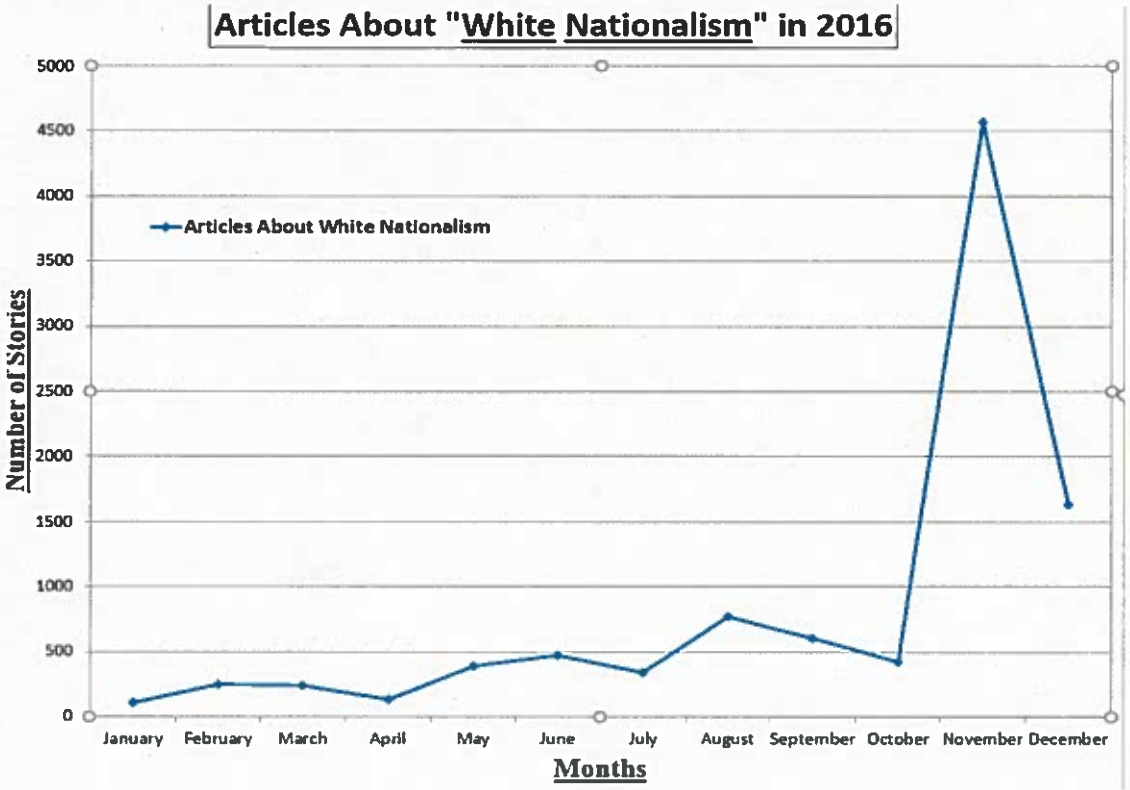
UPDATES: 2/3/2020

Since the initial release of this fact check document, additional information has been revealed which further shows the extent to which a misquote in the New York Times was weaponized and used against Steve King. Further, this information also shows that Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's unilateral decision to strip King of committee assignments was an unjust and unprecedented abuse of power.

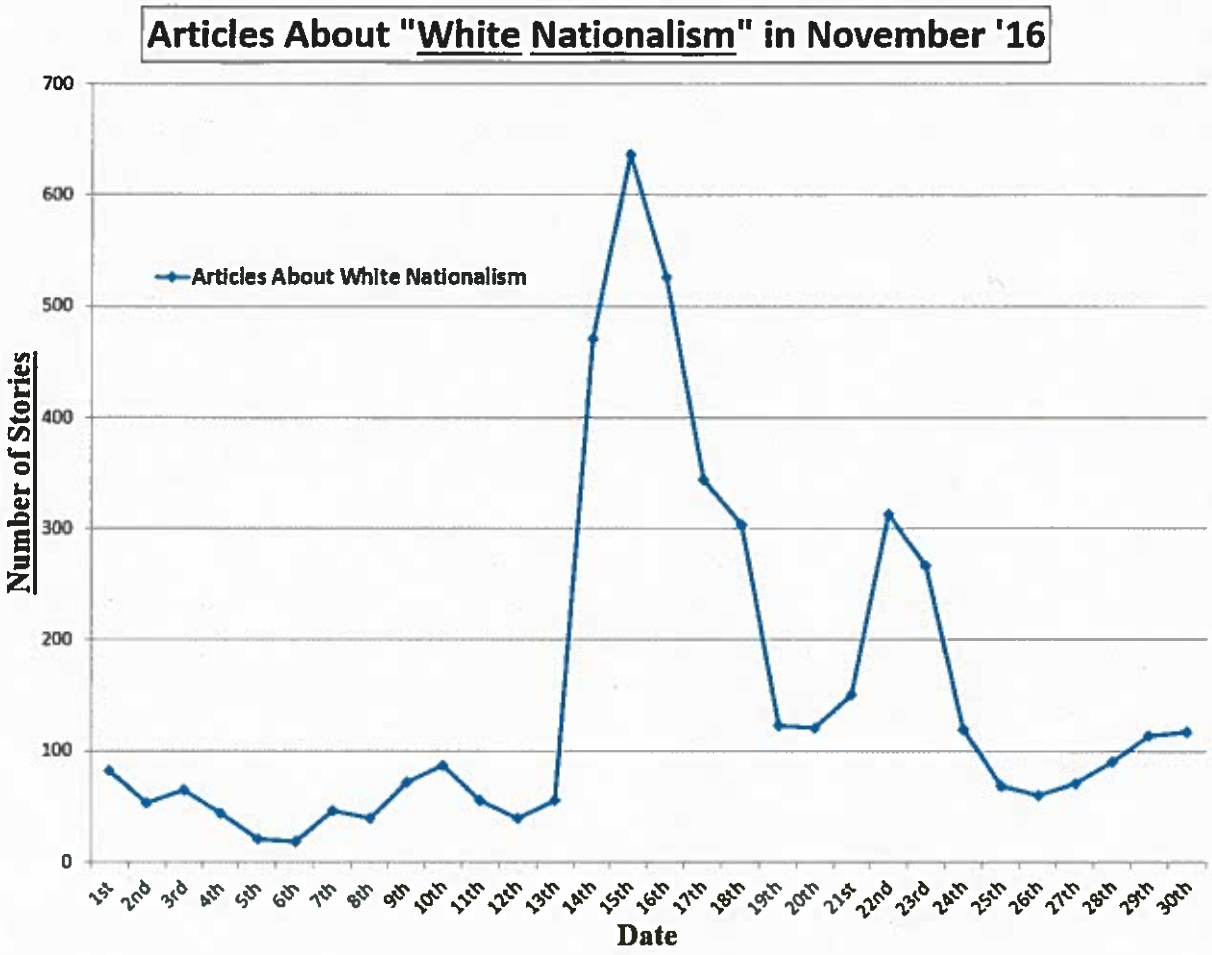
- **The Left has weaponized the use of racially charged phrases to attack Conservatives:** On November 14, 2016 Politico ran a story entitled "Soros Bands With Donors to Resist Trump, 'Take Back Power'. The article discusses a three day conference, beginning on November 13th, 2016, in which *"George Soros and other rich liberals who spent tens of millions of dollars trying to elect Hillary Clinton are gathering in Washington for a three-day, closed door meeting to retool the big-money left to fight back against Donald Trump."*
- **King has frequently asserted that one of the strategies the activists attending the "Resistance" conference developed was the weaponization of new terminology**

spread through the media to malign conservatives, an assertion that data corroborates.

For example, Lexis-Nexis data shows that the use of the phrase "White Nationalism" in the national media was virtually non-existent until November of 2016.



In fact, the spike in usage on November 2016 correlates perfectly with the "Resistance" gathering in the Mandarin Hotel. Note that the November spikes in usage of "white nationalism" correspond to the exact days (November 13-14-15) in which the Soros-led conference was being held and covered by the media.



- Another indicator of the recent weaponization of the phrase "white nationalism" can be found in a study of the Congressional Record. According to CRS, no Member of Congress has ever said, in their original words, the term White Nationalist on the House Floor prior to President Donald Trump being elected.

- **Kevin McCarthy's decision to remove King from all three of his committees for a misquote in the New York Times is unprecedented** with no analogous case to Congressman King's. Apart from party switches/level of party support, King is only the 4th Member in modern history, according to CRS, to be stripped of all committee assignments, and he is the only one who was removed from committees for a reason that has no basis in history, House or Conference Rules, or Federal law.

Conclusion: Congressman King was railroaded over a false quote. To believe the version of events relied upon by Kevin McCarthy to strip King of committee assignments, one must believe that an unreasonable but "sensational" interpretation, for which no evidence exists, is more likely to be accurate than a reasonable, "noncontroversial" interpretation which is internally supported by context clues and externally supported by data and other contemporaneous, published accounts. One must also believe that ***The New York Times***, a hostile, liberal paper which has had other articles about Congressman Steve King written by the same author thoroughly debunked as "completely bogus," set aside its animus in this particular case.

Note: This document contains hyperlinks to source material. Parties interested in reviewing the links can do so thru Congressman King's website (https://steveking.house.gov) which is hosting this document in an internet friendly version.

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rights and advance the best interests of the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the rule and underlying legislation.

The text of the material previously referred to by Mrs. LESKO is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 1164

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 8265) to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to establish a program for second draw loans and make other modifications to the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 8265.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

QUESTION OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to raise a question of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has been made aware of a valid basis for the gentleman's point of personal privilege.

The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I appreciate being recognized here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, and throughout the years I have had the privilege to serve Iowans and Americans here. This is a great deliberative body, although sometimes we miss the facts.

And I know that there is a phrase that I heard back in a political era, which is, whenever you lose a vote, you can sometimes use this analysis:

Nor is the people's judgment always true: the most can err as grossly as the few.

And that has happened a number of times in my 18 years that I have served in this Congress. This is the 116th Congress, and if someone were to ask me, well, what was your favorite session of Congress, I don't have to worry about the 116th being on that list.

□ 1300

But I rise to focus on a specific circumstance here, and that is a misquote of me that was driven into just a national feeding frenzy. It was validated by this Congress, this misquote.

And when I stood on the floor of this Congress and made a statement to describe what likely happened in an interview with The New York Times that took place in early January of 2019, I made the point on what that statement was, and the statement was regarding white nationalists, white supremacists. There always was a pause between those two odious ideologies and the term "western civilization."

I advised Congress that there would be a distinct pause to demonstrate a new thought started rather than jamming those three ideologies together.

Who would compare white nationalism and white supremacy, those odious ideologies, who would compare them to western civilization, the very foundation of American civilization, the foundation of the First World, and here, America, the flagship of western civilization today? There is no comparison and should never be equated between the two.

Yet, I didn't tie that thought together, but the stenographers did.

And I am not here to be a critic, because they have done terrific work for me over the years, and their skill set, and their professionalism are second to none. They are the best in the world, as far as I am concerned, but if they can make a mistake, so can The New York Times, which is my point.

So in this narrative, Madam Speaker, I will take you back a little way. And I want the Congress to know what all has transpired here that brought us to the point of the feeding frenzy and the political lynch mob that was here that day on about January 12 or so, or January 13, and it was this: that during my election in the year 2018, November of 2018, there was a national media focus on attacking me. That happens in other races, but I don't know that it ever happened as intensively as it did in my race.

In any case, we came through that with a 3.4 percent victory, and I thought that was the end of it. I expected that I would come back. You know, even your political opposition needs a rest from time to time, and so after the election is when they take a deep breath, retool, and get ready for the legislative session.

But I sat down with a political operative, who was one of the top political campaign managers at the presidential level in the Nation, and a successful one at that. He came in to give me a little bit of his advice, and as I am listening to that, he said: They are going to try again. They are going to try again to drive you out of office with a national media assault on you, and they are going to attack you with everything. They will throw everything at you. He didn't say but the kitchen sink, but I got the message.

And when he first brought that up, Madam Speaker, I passed it off, because I didn't take it seriously. Nothing like that had ever happened before in the history of this country that I knew.

And he brought it up a second time, and I passed it off again, because I didn't take it seriously. But the third time, he got my attention.

And the third time he brought it up, he said: They are going to make another run at you.

This was the day before Thanksgiving of 2018, by the way. He said: They are going to make another run at you, and they believe that they were—this meaning Democrats, yes, but also Republicans, establishment, the swamp creatures, the elitists, those folks, and also the media. They are going to make another run, because they believe that the midterm elections of 2018 were a bit distracting, they had other races to be concerned about, and so, therefore, they couldn't bring all their guns to bear on this Member of Congress from the Fourth District of Iowa.

So he did have my attention by then. And as much as it didn't seem plausible, his advice to me was this: They have a messenger that they will send to the President, a messenger whom the President trusts and who has his ear, who is going to be directed to convince the President to send out a negative tweet on Congressman KING, and that negative tweet will be the trigger that launches another media assault, all the broadsides that they can get on this Member of Congress. And he used these words: And they believe they can force you to resign.

Now, that is a hard concept to get into your head when nothing like that had ever happened before and there was no substance for that to be based upon, but he did convince me.

So I set about preempting this, at his advice, and I did, to the extent I could, preempted it at the White House. And I think history proves that that has been successful. President Trump has not taken a shot at me, even though there were many others who couldn't resist the press's temptation to take a cheap shot, but the President did not. So I take it that the effort to preempt it at the White House was at least partially successful.

Yet, I couldn't get a meeting with the messenger until January 8, 2019. So on January 8, I had that meeting with the person that was at least named as the potential messenger, and in that conversation, I was assured: I would never do that to you, STEVE. Be assured that that won't happen.

Well, I was fairly confident that those words were honest, and actually felt pretty happy about it when I walked out of that meeting. But I also suspected that the people that were

around that individual might find out about the meeting that I had just finished and might know that I understood the gambit that was going to be run against me. That was January 8.

January 9, amazingly, I have a primary opponent that announced on Twitter at 11:23 a.m.—He might have announced earlier than that, except he was busy deleting all of his tweets for the previous 10 years, and then once the tweets were deleted—He announced on Twitter that he was going to challenge me in a primary. He didn't have a website, didn't have a roll-out plan, didn't have a media plan, didn't have an interview set up. He just sent out a tweet.

So that seems to me that he hadn't been planning that very long. I think he got a phone call the night before that morning that said: You are going to have to announce now. That was January 9.

January 10, The New York Times story came out. And The New York Times story that has been the subject of this turmoil here on the floor of the House that had the whole Nation fixated on a few words, it actually turned out to be about 13 words.

It is still pretty stunning to think how you can mobilize the United States Congress over whether or not there is a hyphen or a period where it ought to be.

But here is what we have, Madam Speaker. We have to protect the Constitution of the United States, and the First Amendment of the Constitution is freedom of speech, religion, press, and peaceable assembly.

And freedom of speech, whatever our speech is—I know that I was sitting in a meeting with some folks in Europe about 2 or 3 years ago, and they are prosecuting people for what they call hate speech and for asking a rhetorical question. I have a couple of friends over there that I happen to know that have been persecuted, prosecuted, and convicted for hate speech that was actually just a rhetorical question.

I was making the case to them, I said: You need American-style constitutional protection for freedom of speech. You don't have freedom of speech here in Europe, and you are going to be a lot more robust society, you can address your problems and have open discussion, but you shut down any dialogue by hate speech prosecutions.

And they said: We have more freedom of speech than you have in America.

Now, that will bring a person up short, Madam Speaker. And so I asked: Why?

And his answer was: In America you can start a corporation, you can be a CEO, you can write a check to an unfavored not-for-profit group—or a profit group, excuse me—and once the public finds out about that, then they put that out all over the internet and they just—they named the people that had lost their companies because of a tweet or because of a donation to an unpreferred entity.

And as they made their case, I realized they kind of stumped me a little bit. We have freedom of speech in the Constitution. But they said they don't lock people up for hate speech, they just prosecute them, convict them, turn them loose, and they generally learn their lesson. But here, we have watched since that time, since that time back in—this conversation took place in August 2018, freedom of speech has been diminished in this country incrementally. And it is a tragedy that we are going down that path.

But here in this Congress, here is what happened: from the meeting that took place on January 8, the announcement of one primary opponent on January 9, The New York Times story on January 10, and after that, there was nothing I could have said or done that was going to change the inertia that was created.

They actually carried out what they had given me the heads-up they were going to do. They actually brought all media broadsides against me. And it didn't matter what was fact and what was fiction. It mattered that they had mobilized all those forces because they thought that they could force me to resign.

And for what purpose? I can give you a lot of reasons, Madam Speaker, but I think what is better to do at this point is to examine The New York Times.

The New York Times interview took place on January 5 of 2019 on a phone call that I received from the reporter Trip Gabriel right about 8:30 in the morning.

I had advised him that he should go through my communications director, but I also had told him that I thought I would be open at about 8:30 until 10:30 that day.

So he called me directly. And I had just gotten out of the shower to get ready to come down here and go to work. I didn't get a chance to check the email from my communications director first. That came in at 7:48 a.m., and it said: Don't do the interview. It is a trap. I have been trying to shut this reporter down. I know he is coming at you with a trap. Don't do the interview.

I didn't see that until much, much later. Had I seen that, there wouldn't have been an interview.

But it was 56 minutes long. And there is no tape. And as far as I can determine, there aren't even any notes that are available to the public.

And we have asked him: What was the question that you asked? What was the leading question? What was the context of the answer that I gave?

And KEVIN MCCARTHY is critical of me, because he says that he can remember every word that he has used in the last 6 months in an interview, and that includes also the punctuation, because that is the topic we were talking about.

I don't think that is even humanly possible. I don't think anybody can do that.

And Trip Gabriel says: Don't worry about whether I am accurate or not, because I can type as fast as anybody can talk.

Well, I have asked our wonderful stenographers down here how fast they can type, and what I learned was at about 130 words on a conventional keyboard is just about the limit to be certified, but maybe 150 or 160 on the magic keyboard that is going right down there right now.

And I say: Can you keep up with me when I am talking at a fast pace?

And they say: No. I have to listen to the tape.

But I respect the professionalism we have here. Anybody can make a mistake.

And then I asked about the precision of punctuation when you are doing a transcript on the keyboards even that we have here, let alone the conventional one that Trip Gabriel was using. And they say: Well, we will get the words right if you talk at a pace that we can keep up, but we can't guarantee the punctuation.

So there is a great big difference in whether— there is a great big difference in whether the meaning of a phrase has got a hyphen in it or whether it has a comma in it.

Trip Gabriel put in a comma, and he insists he is right. And I would ask, how could he know? How could he know whether he is right or not, because his memory is not any better than KEVIN MCCARTHY, not as good as KEVIN MCCARTHY says it is.

So I want to go through this. So what happened shortly after that, this thing all hit, and on Monday early in the month of January, I had a meeting with our leader here, and it lasted about an hour. And it wasn't a happy meeting for either one of us, but he was determined, he was determined that I am wrong, The New York Times is right.

And I don't know how our leader can defend President Trump against The New York Times and attack me for the opposite.

If you just Google, lying New York Times, you get hundreds of hits on a Google of lying New York Times. Their credibility has been essentially destroyed.

And this little piece, I would say this: 18 years in this Congress, 45 years in the construction business, 6 years in the Iowa Senate, our family goes back three generations on the dirt that we are on right now where we live, and throughout all that time, The New York Times and others have sent reporters into my neighborhood to try to find somebody that has got something derogatory to say about me or some insult to my character, and they have failed every time; The New York Times, The Washington Post, Huffington Post, you can name all of them. It used to be The Weekly Standard, and they rightfully are defunct now because of their overreach and their political bias that they rolled out. But in

all that time, they have never found a single person.

And no one has gone on record in this Congress in 18 years, serving on the Judiciary Committee for 16 of those years, the most polarized committee on the Hill and the most racially diverse committee on the Hill, and not one of those folks, and many of them trade in the race issue, has ever made a statement that I had been disrespectful or disparaging in any way whatsoever.

□ 1315

And so there is no substance. I have no accusers, no individual accusers that have stood up. But this whole mass of people in this place were accusers on that day in early January of 2019.

So I am here to assert that—I am asking this Congress and this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to correct the RECORD and to place a hyphen in the terms from that day where I said I was going to pause—I did pause; I have watched the videotape of it since then several times—that the language be: white nationalist, white supremacist, hyphen.

That is a pause, and it is a new thought, and the new thought then became: Western civilization, now how did that language become offensive? Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and our civilization just to watch Western civilization become a derogatory term in political discourse today?

The very statement itself refutes The New York Times' characterization. It refutes the characterization that was delivered at me by KEVIN MCCARTHY and others. It refutes the characterization that was the presumption of this Congress. But the presumption of this Congress didn't look at the evidence. They didn't look at the facts. They just got swept up in the herd mentality and went ahead and did what they did.

And by the way, the resolution that was brought, I believe, by Mr. CLYBURN that day, the resolution was actually honest because it said: whereas Congressman KING has been quoted as saying.

And that was the qualifier, and then they put the quote in out of The New York Times. Well, I was quoted as saying that. That was an honest statement. It was a misquote. They didn't bother saying that. But I was misquoted in The New York Times, but the way it was printed in the resolution was accurate. And all the other whereases that rejected the odious ideologies were all accurate.

My own rejection of it in the previous week was stronger than the resolution itself. I wish they had used my language. Mine was stronger, and mine was better, but I agreed with all the words that were in that. And I asked this body, vote "yes" on this resolution.

I had, I will say, dozens of friends here that were prepared to come to this floor and vote against that resolution in order to guard my back, just on the principle that they knew I am not the person that that resolution implied that I am.

But, instead, rather than divide our conference, rather than divide this Congress, rather than ask them to vote against a resolution that happened to be technically true, I asked them all, instead, vote for this resolution because it is technically true, and that is not the argument.

Now, only one person voted against it; that was the gentleman from Illinois, Chicago. BOBBY RUSH, former Black Panther, voted against the resolution because he thought I should have been sanctioned or censured even more.

Well, aren't we supposed to look at evidence in this place? Do facts matter? Does reason matter? Or are we just caught up in the political inertia of what goes on, and we try to fit ourselves into the stream so that we don't stand out very much?

So I have given you some of that, but none of the context of my quote was included in The New York Times story.

We called up Trip Gabriel and said: What question did you ask me?

He—first, I asked him: Do you have a tape? He would not even answer the question of whether he had a tape.

Then we asked him: What question did you ask Congressman KING that brought forth this answer that is only about just a handful of words, 13 words altogether, and what is the context of that? What was the question? What was the answer? Did you feed those words to him, and did he repeat them back to you?

And he wouldn't answer that question either. It took two phone calls to squeeze some out.

But what we learned was he didn't expect that that would be the quote that would do it. That is almost an exact quote out of him. He didn't think that that would be the quote. He thought it would be something else in the article.

So that indicates to me he knew it was a hit job when he did the interview, and that is also what Mark Steyn says. He says that is not a good faith interview request, and this is said just the day after this incident.

And Mark Steyn went on to say—he said: He made a mistake, STEVE KING. He agreed to give an interview on national immigration policy to The New York Times. That is not a good faith interview request. They are only asking you, and he should know this, they are only asking you to stitch you up, to talk to you for 3 hours and get you to use one phrase in there that they can lift out and kill you with.

Well, I think Mark Steyn had that figured out, and I think he is really accurate. He went on to say: This guy, STEVE KING, was trapped. Trapped. The words he said about when did that become controversial, he meant the phrase, Western civilization.

How come Mark Steyn knows this the day after and this Congress can't understand this 2 years after?

And he went on to say: He is not a white supremacist. He is not a white nationalist. It is all stupid talk.

So you have just surrendered the phrase, Western civilization. I don't get that, said Mark Steyn. I don't see what is in it for conservatism in surrendering that phrase and accepting the left's view that the term, Western civilization, is beyond the pale.

He also said that conservatives, Republicans, have trouble finding a hill that they believe is worth dying on. But when you sacrifice this issue and that issue and another issue, and you get to Western civilization and you sacrifice the hill of the very foundation of the First World, our country, and the founding of our country, the founding documents, the ideology that I would trace you all the way back to Moses and bring through the Greeks and the Romans in Western Europe and the rule of law and free enterprise capitalism and the industrial revolution and God-given liberty and natural law and the deep reading and understanding that was done by our Founders who shaped this country, who found America to be and shaped America to be a giant petri dish for God-given liberty.

Think of what it was like. Here is this land, this huge Western Hemisphere that hadn't seen any aspect of what we consider to be modern life. And on this land, here came, at the dawn of the industrial revolution, the idea—it will be Adam Smith, he wrote "Wealth of Nations", published 1776, the same year the Declaration was published. And this petri dish, this giant petri dish of freedom and liberty and rule of law and unlimited natural resources—so we thought at the time—and the concept of manifest destiny and the wars that were fought to secure those things, all of that, all of that that is so rich in America's history and makes us the greatest Nation the world has seen, but we can't defend Western civilization?

And I will say, 2 years ago, when this came down, people didn't understand what is happening. But today, Western civilization is under assault, and I have been 100 percent correct on this. I have been more correct on this than I thought I was going to be, Mr. Speaker.

But I would just want to add that nobody in America ever sat in the class to learn about the merits of white nationalism or white supremacism, and the content of that quote makes it clear. All the contemporaneous evidence supports what I have been saying.

In fact, all of the things that I have said since then, no one has found a hole in any of them. No one has said this is marginally untrue or untrue. No one has ever looked at the language that I have used and said that it isn't accurate.

In fact, what I have done is I introduced a fact-check document, and that fact-check document was first published March 6, 2019. KEVIN MCCARTHY

gave me 24 hours to prove a negative—24 hours. Well, he didn't actually. I asked for 24 hours. He gave me 1 hour.

Now, philosophers have—and everywhere from philosophers to barflies have argued for centuries that it is impossible to prove a negative. Well, no, it is logically possible to prove a negative, and I did that. And I did it in a fact-check document filed in this Congress and published on my website February 3—excuse me—March 6 of 2019. And then some other facts came to bear, and I published a follow-up of that.

I deleted nothing from this. I just added some more facts. And that was published February 3 of this year, 2020.

So some of the things that I want people to think about is, I had done—we had done the LexisNexis search and asked it: Had STEVE KING ever said white nationalist anywhere in history? We went back to the year 2000. That is about as far as we can trust the records, I think. And at no time, I had never, ever been quoted as ever even uttering the words that identify that odious ideology.

And so when I was asked: What is a white nationalist by DAVE PRICE on a television station in Des Moines, Iowa, it caught me off guard because I hadn't been ever asked to define it before. I had never said the term before. In fact, I didn't use that term when I answered the question.

But I did say it is a derogatory term. It might have meant something different 1, 2, or 3 years ago, but today it means racist. That was my definition off the cuff from a question that I didn't anticipate. Maybe it could have been a little more artful, but it is true, and it is true because the term has been weaponized and essentially unused.

And so, we looked through the record of LexisNexis and said: Where is the first documented instance of where I ever used the phrase white nationalist? And that turns out to be in an interview that was done right before Christmas of 2018 with the Christian Science Monitor. And there, I was making the case that some of this language has been weaponized. And did I use the terms—I said, I used the terms—if I can find it here, I added a couple of other terms that were part of that, such as, well, racist is weaponized; Nazi is weaponized; fascist is weaponized; white nationalism is weaponized; and white supremacy is weaponized. Now they are trying to weaponize Western civilization. When that happens, our civilization will be on its way out the door.

But I was clearly making a statement, defending Western civilization and rejecting the odious ideologies.

So we looked it up, and I asked the question—just a minute. This, Mr. Speaker, is a chart of LexisNexis that charts the frequency of the utilization of the term, white nationalist or white nationalism, a derivative of that. So it goes back to the year 2000, and you can see all the way up till 2015, it is virtually unused. It wasn't in our American vernacular. No one could be expected to have the precise and perfect definition for that in their head from a—I will say—a quick response type of a question if we are not using it in our language.

It wasn't in our political discourse. It may be in academia. That is probably where—one to 200 times a year is about what that is down on the bottom.

And then you see that 2015, it picked up just a little bit. But 2016, it went from virtually unused to 10,000 times a year. And then, in 2017, it went to 30,000 times a year. 2018, it is still up there at 20,000 times a year.

This term, white nationalism, was weaponized, and it was used against conservatives. They knew they had worn out the term racism, so they had to come up with some new terms, and that was one of them.

Here is another example. This is the year. This is the year 2016. It was, I could say, almost virtually unused up until November of 2016. And what happened in November of 2016? Oh, Donald Trump was elected President wasn't he, on about November 8.

And the following Sunday, about the 12th or 13th of November, the top people in the Democratic Party met at the Mandarin Hotel here in Washington, D.C. The articles that I read about it are articles that were written around their star person there, George Soros, who was in that hotel and presumably led some of the discussions that were there and contributed, likely, to the cause.

And so from the moment that they went into that hotel, that Sunday, it doesn't really show very much utilization of it. But on the following day, Monday, it shoots off the charts. There is no question that this synchronizes almost exactly with the meeting in the Mandarin Hotel, which, I believe, strategically decided: We are going to launch white nationalism and white supremacy as weaponized terms, and we are going to use them against Republicans.

So this is actually, Mr. Speaker, the picture of November itself and broken down day by day. And so you can see, the 11th, the 12th, here is the 13th. That was Monday. They called into the hotel. Thirteen is Sunday, excuse me. And so they were checking in.

But on Monday, here we go. Tuesday, that is how they triggered the weaponization of language, and that is what I was describing in that interview, although I thought I was right because my guts were speaking to me. My instincts were speaking to me. I didn't have the data, but it is pretty clear that I was more right than I imagined that I would be.

That is the circumstances that we are dealing with here, and the hyperactivity of a planned ambush of a Member of Congress in an effort to try to drive him out of office and force him to resign, based upon false stories and false allegations without substance.

□ 1330

So I will take you to this, Mr. Speaker. We went to Congressional Research Services, CRS, and asked them: Who has been removed from all of their committees presumably for disciplinary reasons? And what do you know about as far as you can go back in the search engine or into modern history?

We found out that James Traficant was removed from all of his committees. He was subsequently convicted of a Federal felony and went to prison—several Federal felonies, as a matter of fact.

Then we have had, I can think of two, three cases since that time, fairly contemporary. I don't want to say their names because I remain a person who—well, I regret what they were convicted of, but, nonetheless, it is this.

There have been five Members of Congress who were removed from their committees for disciplinary reasons in all of modern history according to CRS. One of them is fairly recent down in Kansas. The other two, in addition to James Traficant, were subsequently convicted of Federal felonies. So the charges on the Kansas issue are Federal felonies.

So here I stand, the sole person in 233 years of the American Republic who has been denied a full-throated representation of his 750,000 constituents by an arbitrary decision of the leader of the Republican Party, who had no evidence except his faith that the dishonest reporter of The New York Times was more honest than a very honest Member of Congress standing before him.

No one in this Congress has ever asserted that I misinformed them willfully. Maybe I made a couple of mistakes on data, and if I caught them, I went back and fixed it as quickly as I could. But that assertion has never been made. There has never been made of any personal disparagement, as I said earlier. All of that holds together.

No one in this body has ever heard me utter even a swearword under my breath. Yet this is what happens to the freedom of speech and representation.

I would add this. I had more votes for me in the previous election in November of 2018 than either the current leader of the Republican Party or the Conference chair, yet they have got a sanctimonious attitude about what is right and what is wrong.

So I would assert, Mr. Speaker, that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD did err. It is easy to determine that because there is a C-SPAN tape. We have a tape of one thing, and that was there is a distinct difference between the two odious ideologies and Western civilization. I made the point. I did the pause. It is natural for me to talk and think that way. It is not natural for me to advocate for something that I disagree with.

Further, this fact-checked document makes it real clear that of all of the time that it has been out here, a year and a half or better, not a soul has

found anything false in it, anything mischaracterized, anything biased, or any hole in the logic that says that could not have happened with The New York Times. It is a false and erroneous misquote is the nicest way that I can put that.

Mr. Speaker, I have gone through a number of these things that are the factual components of it, but here is another piece: How often was white nationalist used in this Congress? I said it was virtually unused for all those years on up until 2018. We went back through the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and did a search, too. I will just read you the text of this fact-checked document, Mr. Speaker, to give you some of the flavor of it.

It says: Another indicator of the recent weaponization of the phrase "white nationalism" can be found in a study of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. According to the CRS, no Member of Congress has ever said, in their original words, the term "white nationalist" on the House floor prior to President Donald Trump being elected.

That is out of a CRS report.

So how could it be that, oh, that is attributed to me, and there is a thought process that is attributed to me?

But it says that KEVIN MCCARTHY's decision to remove KING from all three of his committees for a misquote of The New York Times is unprecedented with no analogous case to mine. Apart from party switches/level of party support, KING is only the fourth Member of Congress' history—that is this report prior to the Kansas incident I mentioned—according to the CRS to be stripped of all committee assignments, and he is the only one who was removed from committees for a reason that has no basis—no basis in history, in House or Conference rules or Federal law. Or, I will say, no basis in truth either.

So one has to come to a conclusion here as to what actually happened.

Mr. Speaker, you can believe the version of events that are relied upon by KEVIN MCCARTHY to strip KING of committee assignments, but if that is so, one must believe that an unreasonable but sensational interpretation for which no evidence exists is more likely to be accurate than a reasonable, noncontroversial interpretation which is internally supported by context clues and externally supported by data and other contemporaneous published accounts.

One must also believe that The New York Times, which is a hostile, liberal paper, which has had other articles about me, STEVE KING, written by the same author thoroughly debunked as completely bogus, set aside its animus in this particular case and wrote an objective article for the first time on me.

This document that I am speaking from contains hyperlinks to source material. Parties interested in reviewing this can go to my website steveking.house.gov and pull one of these documents down.

Mr. Speaker, another piece of this was Brit Hume, a legendary journalist and reporter. Brit Hume is publicly no fan of STEVE KING. He read through an article that was written by Trip Gabriel just about on January 15 of 2019, and Trip Gabriel brought up a whole series of quotes that proves that I am a racist. Brit Hume read down through that and said that it is completely bogus. Most of the articles and most of the quotes don't have anything to do with race whatsoever, and none of the comments were racist. That is Brit Hume.

Between Brit Hume, Mark Steyn, and multiple others who are objective, I think we get the idea of what happened here.

Going home to spend time with my grandchildren is not what I regret, Mr. Speaker, but what I regret is the precedent that is established here that there is no place to appeal.

I recall when I was first elected to the Iowa Senate, I had what turned out to be a future constituent who found himself in an administrative law judge position where the administrative law judges had ruled against him. It was a domestic issue. I knew that he was honest; I knew that he was the target; and I knew he was the victim of stack of lies. So I set about trying to get him an appeal so that his case could be heard.

As I checked the fences, so to speak, as we say in Iowa, or perhaps Texas as well, as we checked the fences, it always will go under the next one, the next one, the next one. But once you went around, it was a corral, and there was no way for him. He is back appealing to the very person who ruled against him in the first place.

So, Mr. Speaker, what you are really down to is you can go through some motions, but you have to ask the decider to change their mind. That is the only appeal. When you have got the pressure of a nation, the media pressure and the political politics that go on here, then they are not going to change their mind. There is too much narcissism involved for that.

By the way, there is a significant amount of mendacity, while we are talking about personal characteristics, because KEVIN MCCARTHY promised me that he would go to the Steering Committee and ask them to restore me to all of my committees. That happened April 19 of this year. I have the transcript of that phone call. Yet, when McCarthy was asked about that in a press conference, he denied it and made me out to be the liar. That is another piece that has got to be changed in the history of all of this.

What I regret is, if there is a due process, then there needs to be a place where there can be an appeal. There needs to be a place to roll the facts out and there needs to be a way that you can put people who sit in judgment, who actually have to evaluate the facts and be subjected to criticism for their decision that they would make. None of that exists in this Congress. It may exist over on the other side of the aisle, but it doesn't exist on this side of the aisle.

So I have my obligations here, and one of the obligations is to deliver the truth. I am confident everything I have said here today is objectively true. I have dug through this for a good, long period of time.

After the primary election, I sat down on my deck out on the east side before the Sun came up in the morning and took my keyboard and began to type. After a few weeks, I had 60,000-some words, and that is a book. That will be in print real soon. The title of that is "Walking Through the Fire."

I was able to call Andrew Breitbart, a close, personal friend. When he tragically passed away at age 43 several years ago, I was given the honor to give the eulogy for him at the national memorial here in Washington, D.C., for Andrew Breitbart, whose imprint is on our society to this day.

Andrew would say to us: Walk towards the fire. Walk towards the fire. Their bullets aren't real. They just want to scare you. They want to shut you up. They don't like your ideology, so they will attack you personally, and they will call you a whole series of names.

He was more eloquent about that than I.

I started out the book that way, "Walk towards the fire," but the title of my book is "Walking Through the Fire" because, once that fire was lit in front of me, I could have either turned and run or walked through it. I said: If you are going to do this to me, you are going to have to shoot me down in the middle of Main Street at high noon with everybody watching.

That is pretty much what happened. They mounted that kind of effort and did everything they could to destroy my reputation.

But the facts stand the same. I have no accusers. All of the logic of this fact-checked document supports what I have told you here today, Mr. Speaker, all of it. There is not a hole in it. No one has found a hole in it, even when it would behoove them to find a hole in it or several holes in it.

I think that my reputation here among the people who know me is solid. But, also, I will have a shorter list of friends maintenance after this last experience over these 2 years.

I don't regret going home. I don't regret spending more time with my grandchildren.

I got a phone call from one of our county chairs here a month and a half or so ago. He said: I am calling to tell you that God is showing you how much He loves you because He is guaranteeing you more time. He is sending you home to spend more time with your grandchildren.

That is as good a way to put that as you can.

I have made good friends here in this place, but the list of them is shorter

than I thought it was. So I think it is very important that people coming into this Congress, the freshmen whom I have never gotten a chance to know over a 2-year period of time because, if they are seen talking to STEVE KING, the leader might not give them the committee assignment that they want, I didn't get to know them. That is too bad. I am sure there are good people there. But that list is shorter than I thought it would be.

We need more and deeper character in this Congress, and we need to tie back to facts and policy. What I have seen happen here in the time that I have been in this Congress is, when young Members come in, they come in pretty strong ideologically, for the most part. They want to make a difference, and they want to pass legislation. They are policy people, and they are ideological people.

And I meet them and I like them and I like the spark that is in their eyes, but pretty quickly, sometimes there are even one or two or three, even on the first day, who decide: Mine is going to be a political equation. Over time, they give up on the policy. They give up on the ideology. They find out that their job is to either work for this team or work for this team over here. They slowly become a political barometer. And when an issue comes up in front of them and they have to make a decision, the question will be: How does this help me? If it doesn't help them, then that question is: How do I avoid dealing with this issue?

I came here to correct the wrongs that I had seen in life and to fix the injustices. I didn't anticipate I would see them so starkly in front of me, but I have. So I wanted to come to the floor here today, Mr. Speaker, and let you know some of these things that I am thinking about. Hopefully, this body will learn from the experiences that we have all been part of here. The freshmen need to be thinking about this and have an independent voice.

Mr. Speaker, I have said that one of the ways that you can have an independent voice here in this Congress—and perhaps the only way you can have an independent voice—is you have to have constituents who will support you; you have to have a fundraising network that is independent from the people who can take it away from you; and you have to have a national media voice so that the truth restrains the people who want to undercut you.

There is a major component that I left out of my presentation here, Mr. Speaker, and that is I am a Member of Congress from Iowa. I am the dean of the Iowa congressional delegation.

I have been engaged in the first-in-the-Nation Iowa caucus for a long time, and I am the only Member that I know of at this elected level who has ever made an endorsement of a Presidential candidate and taken all the heat from the other candidates that comes from that, but I think it is important to do that.

I have had, along with just a handful of other people, an extraordinary opportunity to get to know these Presidential candidates one on one, 17 of them the last time. I brought 12 of them into a Freedom Summit down in Des Moines to launch the national Presidential race. I put 1,250 people in the seats and standing room only. They were rock-ribbed, principled, full-spectrum, constitutional Christian conservatives.

□ 1345

And when they heard something they liked, they stood, stomped their feet, and applauded and cheered.

When they heard something they didn't like, they might look at their watch, boo, hiss, or walk away.

They were sorting these candidates and batching up with what they believed in. The conservatives did well that day, but the moderates didn't do so well. And a couple of moderates didn't show up. So when I see that, when the moderates don't show up and the conservatives do show up, and—let's see, Walker got a big bounce out of that that day, Donald Trump got a big bounce, TED CRUZ got a big bounce, Ben Carson got a big bounce that day. They all spoke at the Freedom Summit. And that helped launch them into a very competitive Presidential campaign.

I did everything I could to provide access to the candidates so that they could be in Iowa and meeting these caucus-goers and shaking hands and doing the things necessary to have a chance at the nomination. That functions really well. But what we did, we built the platform around that. And the platform for the Presidential candidates was actually built in Iowa. And then we put three or four of those candidates on that platform, once they come out of the Iowa Caucus, and we send them off to New Hampshire. New Hampshire does pretty good, but sometimes they will pull a nail or two out. And then they will take that platform and send those candidates down to South Carolina and, thankfully, they put a lot of those nails back in.

So by the time you are done with South Carolina, the platform for the nominees is settled. And that is the platform that makes it to the national convention. That is the platform that arrives in the Oval Office. That is the platform that exists there today.

When I walk into the Oval Office, and I look around, I think, My gosh, we really did accomplish this. We accomplished the agenda on immigration, for example, and we accomplished the agenda to repeal ObamaCare. We didn't get it all done, but it is on there.

I have in my pocket a picture of all the promises that Donald Trump made, there are a lot of checkmarks behind the ones that have been accomplished. Those promises, many of them were made in Iowa at the launch of this.

And that is one of the things that has brought out the opposition, the establishment people in this country don't want conservatives to have a loud voice on who the nominees are going to be. But I say, the heart of the heartland is where the families are. It is where the small businesses are. Where we are the farthest away from the big businesses, we are insulated from that. So our ideology—Democrat and Republican—is closer to the real people than you might find if you go someplace where there is an expensive media market.

In launching Democrat and Republican candidates, we must have that hands-on where they have to meet people and get to know the American people. We want real candidates out there on that stage. And the folks that had the money—for example, Jeb Bush spent $139 million, and he got something like three or five delegates. He is not very happy with how that opportunity didn't exist for him in a way that it might have for a TED CRUZ or a Ben Carson or a Donald Trump or a Scott Walker. So they decided that they don't want to have that voice in northwest Iowa. And that is a big piece of this as well.

Mr. Speaker, the forces behind this, the forces of the swamp that have mobilized themselves like never before and pulled off something that had never been accomplished before and done with—I will say a strategy and millions of dollars, and a network of media that was coordinated across this country is all part of this. It is all part of my book. I can't begin to express it all here in the time that I have, but I do appreciate the time that I have been allowed here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that I appreciate serving with you, a man of a happy attitude that expresses it across the aisles in a bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this Congress to take a look at the C–SPAN tape, correct the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, put the hyphen in where it belongs, and recognize that I have been right on this all along. No one has found a hole in anything that I have said. You can look through every word put out the last 2 years. Everything I have said stands up. It doesn't stand up with the New York Times. It doesn't stand up with KEVIN MCCARTHY. It stands up when I say it.

I make that point as I step aside here because it is a challenge. Show me where I am wrong. Show me where I have been—I should say—where I haven't been factual. No one has been able to do that. They won't be able to do that. The fact-checked document stands on its own. It is completely logical, and it proves a negative, even though philosophers have long said that is not possible to do.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized here to address you on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CRIMINAL JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2020

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8124) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for transportation and subsistence for criminal justice defendants, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8124

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Criminal Judicial Administration Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT DEFENDANTS.

Section 4285 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking "when the interests of justice would be served thereby and the United States judge or magistrate judge is satisfied, after appropriate inquiry, that the defendant is financially unable to provide the necessary transportation to appear before the required court on his own" and inserting "when the United States judge or magistrate judge is satisfied that the defendant is indigent based on appointment of counsel pursuant to section 3006A, or, after appropriate inquiry, that the defendant is financially unable to provide necessary transportation on his own"; and

(2) by striking "to the place where his appearance is required," and inserting "(1) to the place where each appearance is required and (2) to return to the place of the person's arrest or bona fide residence,";

(3) by striking "to his destination," and inserting "which includes money for both lodging and food, during travel to the person's destination and during any proceeding at which the person's appearance is required".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE USE OF MAGISTRATE JUDGES TO DECIDE POSTJUDGMENT MOTIONS.

Section 3401 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking "and" after "trial, judgment,";

(B) in the second sentence, by inserting ", and rulings on all post-judgment motions" after "sentencing";

(C) in the third sentence, by striking "and" after "trial, judgment,"; and

(D) in the third sentence, by inserting ", and rulings on all post-judgment motions" after "sentencing";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ", with the approval of a judge of the district court,"; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

"(j) A magistrate judge who exercises trial jurisdiction under this section, in either a petty offense case or a misdemeanor case in which the defendant has consented to a magistrate judge, may also rule on all post-judgment motions in that case, including but not limited to petitions for writs of habeas corpus, writs of coram nobis, motions to vacate a sentence under section 2255 of title 28, and motions related to mental competency under chapter 313 of this title.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8124, the Criminal Judicial Administration Act of 2020 is a bipartisan piece of legislation that makes two very modest but important amendments to current law, promoting the efficient, effective, and fair administration of justice.

The first part of this bill concerns out-of-custody criminal defendants, particularly those who are released pending trial to live in communities that are located far from the courthouse where their cases are being heard.

The majority of Federal criminal defendants are detained pending trial, and the United States Marshals Service is responsible for housing and transporting them to court hearings, including trial. In addition, under current law, the court may order the U.S. marshals to provide funds for a criminal defendant who is released pending trial but cannot afford the cost of travel to cover the defendant's travel to the location of the courthouse for hearings or trial.

However, the defendant must fund their own way back home, and a defendant in this position would not be able to receive financial support from the U.S. marshals for subsistence, such as lodging and meals. For an indigent defendant, these costs are sometimes insurmountable.

For instance, a defendant from Hawaii who must attend their 2-week trial in the Southern District of New York, would have to figure out how to pay for 2 weeks of lodging in New York City, or a defendant released to live at home on the Navajo Reservation, who has a pretrial hearing at the Federal courthouse in Phoenix, Arizona, may not be able to afford gas for the 6-hour ride back home.

For years, our Federal courts have struggled with how to assist indigent defendants when they find themselves in these difficult situations. But unfortunately, the courts' efforts have come up against the text of the statute. This bill would authorize courts in the interest of justice to order the U.S. marshals to cover roundtrip travel and subsistence for defendants who must attend court hearings but cannot afford to pay this on their own. The Judicial Conference of the United States has urged us to correct this grave unfairness. I am pleased to see that we are finally doing that with this bill.

The second part of this bill concerning Federal magistrate judges is also supported by the Judicial Conference. Magistrate judges have trial jurisdiction over certain misdemeanors, except for class A misdemeanors, for which the maximum sentence is up to 1 year in custody. With a defendant's consent, however, a magistrate judge may exercise trial jurisdiction over a case involving a class A misdemeanor.

Magistrate judges frequently do so and often hear class A misdemeanor cases all the way through judgment and sentencing. Under current law, a magistrate's jurisdiction ends after judgment is entered in a misdemeanor case and post-judgment jurisdiction reverts to the district court.

Indeed, magistrate judges are not authorized to hear post-judgment motions, such as motions to vacate a sentence, even though they are the ones that handled the entire matter at the trial level and are best equipped to hear such post-judgment motions.

Among other things, this bill would authorize a magistrate judge to hear post-judgment motions in misdemeanor cases in which she or he exercised trial jurisdiction. This amendment clearly improves judicial economy. It makes perfect sense. This is a straightforward and bipartisan measure that will help our criminal justice system in a more effective and fair manner.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8124, the Criminal Judicial Administration Act of 2020.

This bill strengthens existing laws about transportation and subsistence for indigent criminal defendants. It does this when they are brought to court proceedings.

H.R. 8124 allows a magistrate judge to decide post-judgment motions in a misdemeanor case where the magistrate judge was the judge who handled the underlying misdemeanor case.