

My Rant of the Week: Congress

Sometimes I wish I was clueless. Indifferent. Uninformed. Unfortunately, for me, I am none of these things. And my poor husband has been subjected to my ranting all week about what's been happening in Congress. He is a saint.

All week, I've watched Senators posturing, sermonizing, feigning concern for the American people and grandstanding.

I am sick of all of them – both in the House and the Senate. Using my mother's favorite expression, "they all stink on ice." Using an expression from a good friend of mine, "they're all rat bastards."

I agree with both sentiments. I am convinced, and I doubt anyone can change my mind about this, they're all in it for themselves. They couldn't care less for the American people; they're all concerned about keeping their little fiefdoms and power.

Whether President Trump is trying to drain the swamp, cesspool or sewer, these guys in Congress aren't going to let their power slip away from their greedy little hands. They've made careers out of politics and President Trump, in my opinion, is in for the fight of his life. That's what it's all about. The Washington machine is very well oiled on both sides of the aisle and they're not going to let some outsider from New York come in and turn their world of privilege, power and control upside down.

Clearly, John McCain's vote this week against the "skinny repeal" bill showed me that he hates President Trump more than he loves Arizona or doing the right thing. I firmly believe that. (Although I wish him well with his current fight against cancer, I doubt he is being treated under Obamacare.) I saw no reason for the Senate to cut this bill off at the knees and salvage, at least, some good will for the President

and Republicans, knowing full well it would go back to the House, which would then make further revisions, and a completed bill could be voted upon based on their supposed consciences. But no.

The most disturbing thing about this week's circus atmosphere is the fact that these same clowns in Congress have been promising the American people for SEVEN years they would repeal Obamacare. In January 2016, Obama, of course, vetoed the bill, Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act of 2015. Sen. McCain voted to repeal at that time. So what changed? Paul Ryan, at the time, said: "The idea that Obamacare is the law of the land for good is a myth. We have now shown that there is a clear path to repealing Obamacare without 60 votes in the Senate. So, next year, if we're sending this bill to a Republican president, it will get signed into law." Yeah right. Think again.

An easy answer to all this would be, of course, "term limits." But our truly brilliant Founding Fathers chose not to include such limitations in our Constitution. Rather, they determined six years for a Senator and two years for a Representative would enable the "people" to vote regularly and frequently and would make those members of Congress responsible to the "people" by being on a short leash.

Unfortunately, I don't think the Founding Fathers could've ever imagined legislators being in Congress for decades, like Maxine Watters, for example, who has, over the course of 40 years represented a Los Angeles Congressional District in which she does not even live, amassed a fortune that enables her to live in one of the wealthiest communities of Los Angeles.

I doubt the Founding Fathers could've ever imagined that the populace would become so apathetic, indifferent, uninformed or just plain stupid that a person like Watters, who believes Putin invaded Korea, could be elected over and over and make a

career out of politics.

The other day, John McCain, in his speech in Congress, foreshadowing his nay vote, said, “We are not the president’s subordinates. We are his equal.” I hope we all keep that in mind when these self-righteous politicians start losing their next elections and start blaming the President for his “lack of leadership.” Their loss will be theirs, not the President’s.

I do want to finish with one positive note. Even if President Trump doesn’t get one item on his agenda passed through Congress, I will be forever grateful that he appointed Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. I am hoping he will have an opportunity to appoint another originalist during his term in office. After all, it is the Supreme Court which interprets statutes under the supreme law of our land – our Constitution. (I wonder if Rep. Maxine Waters or her constituents even know this.) For me, the Supreme Court has always been the most important part of America’s political landscape and, particularly, in the 2016 election. So, I say “thank you” to President Trump.

I say “adios” to every member of Congress who has put his or her interests before those of the American people. You all stink on ice.

I don’t get it, but if you do, God bless you.

Republican Election Wave?

Cancel the Midterms!



Tomorrow is election day, and if the polls and early ballot returns are of any indication, it appears it will be a good night for the Republican Party. National media outlets are estimating that there's a very good likelihood that the GOP will take control of the U.S. Senate. *The Washington Post* puts those chances at 96%. *CNN* puts them at 95%. *The New York Times* isn't quite as convinced, but still gives

Republicans a 70% chance of a takeover, which is pretty good.

Understandably, there are a lot of Democrats panicking right now. You can hear it in all the eye-rolling, outrageous, last-minute narratives being put forth in new political ads, and tossed out as Hail May passes to the few remaining undecided voters.

The most entertaining one I've heard in my home state of Colorado was just released last week by a group called *NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado*. The one-minute radio spot depicts a futuristic scenario in which a Colorado man can no longer find any condoms to purchase so he can have safe-sex with his girlfriend. How did this become a problem? Well, it had to do with the *2014 midterm*, where Republican, U.S. Senate candidate Cory Gardner was elected into office. According to the ad, *Future Gardner* somehow managed to use his new-found power to ban Colorado women from using birth control pills. This, of course, increased the demand for condoms in the state so sharply that no one can find them anymore! The shelves are bare, people!

No, I'm not joking, and the ad was *not* a parody.

The liberal media is panicking too, as evidenced by an op-ed printed just yesterday in the *New York Times*. The piece's authors, David Schanzer and Jay Sullivan, are worried that the results of Tuesday's election will *almost certainly "create greater partisan divisions, increase gridlock and render governance of our complex nation even more difficult."*

That sounds pretty bad, doesn't it? Lucky for us, Schanzer and Sullivan have a solution to the problem: Cancel the midterms.

Yes, when the Democratic process just isn't going your way, the only logical recourse is to scrap the election all together and start holding the contests every *four* years.

It makes perfect sense according to Schanzer and Sullivan, who recognize the country's growing lack of confidence in the ability of the federal government to "address pressing concerns." They claim that by extending the term length of U.S. congressional seats, and thus having fewer election cycles, that public's confidence will most certainly return.

How will the public hold their elected representatives accountable during those four, long years? Schanzer and Sullivan have that figured out as well: Twitter, video cameras, and 24-hour cable news.

You see, they contend that in our modern technological era, the only form of accountability politicians require is better communication from their constituents. Because that's the problem, after all; our leaders just don't understand what we want. If they did, they'd obviously do everything differently and cater to our desires. Right?

Wrong.

The notion, for example, that politicians simply didn't understand how wildly unpopular Obamacare was with the public, at the time it was very narrowly passed by congress in 2009, is totally absurd. And if you don't believe all the national

polls and angry town hall meetings from back then, just ask any phone receptionist who worked for a Democratic congressman or congresswoman. If you *still* don't believe me, look at the results of the 2010 election. *That's* the form of *accountability* that Schanzer and Sullivan absolutely *do not* want – especially come this Tuesday.

While I give the two writers credit for at least attempting to sound like they were trying to put forth an idea that they believed would benefit voters, the op-ed was obviously a farce. Beyond the first paragraph, where they stated that more Republicans in Washington would be a bad thing, I don't think they believed a single word of what they wrote. It's clear to me that they were merely venting their frustrations over the likelihood of the Democratic Party losing the U.S. Senate.

Would they have proposed this goofy idea if Republicans owned the Senate and the Democrats were on the verge of taking it over, like in 2006? Would they have suggested that *retweets* make government more responsive and efficient than casting ballots? Of course not. And if someone *had* written such a piece back then, you can rest assured that the *New York Times* wouldn't have run it.

Hang in there, everyone. The *silly season* is almost over. At that time, the country will get back to more traditional forms of political hyperbole and media bias.