

The Delray Democrat

Democrats Can Do (Much) More Than Chew Gum and Walk at the Same Time¹

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It did not take long after the Democrats assumed the majority in the House of Representatives this January for Republicans to begin accusing them of wasting government resources attacking the President instead of governing. This is a classic illustration of what psychologists call “projection,” for it is exactly what House Republicans did during the six years after they regained the majority in 2010.

When Republicans repeated this bit of hypocritical idiocy during Michael Cohen’s testimony before the House Oversight Committee last February, Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett offered the perfect rejoinder: “the Democratic majority can walk and chew gum at the same time.”

Actually, Democrats can do a lot more than chew gum and walk at the same time – the last time they held both Houses of Congress and the White House they saved the country from a second Great Depression, enacted a healthcare bill that made insurance affordable for 20 million previously uninsured Americans, and rescued the auto industry, for starters, all within two years.

Only twice in the last 120 years have the Republicans held both Houses of Congress and the White House for more than two years. The first time they plunged the country into the Great Depression and the second time they gave us the Great Recession. Only two things thwarted Republican efforts to three-peat after Donald Trump’s election: (1) the strong economy they inherited from Obama could not be destroyed that easily; and (2) the 2018 midterms ended their stranglehold on the federal government.

That said, they did manage to hobble the economy, transferring wealth from ordinary Americans to billionaires and multinational corporations and adding nearly two trillion to the federal debt with their Orwellian-titled Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Of course, exploding deficits and exploiting ordinary Americans is what Republicans do best. In fact, and to return to the metaphor of chewing gum and walking, it is the only thing Republicans know how to do.

Again, by contrast, the following is only a partial listing of the bills Democrats have passed while holding hearings that have pried the lid off and will continue to expose Mr. Trump’s blatant corruption, high crimes and misdemeanors:

H.R. 1: For the People Act

H.R. 5: The Equality Act

H.R. 6: The American Dream and Promise Act

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, November 2019, p. 3.

H.R. 7: The Paycheck Fairness Act
H.R. 8: The Bipartisan Background Checks Act
H.R. 9: The Climate Action Now Act
H.R. 987: The Strengthening Health Care and
Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act
H.R. 1585: The Violence Against Women
Reauthorization Act
H.R. 1644: The Save the Internet Act

Unfortunately, all of these have ended up in the Senate graveyard over which Moscow Mitch presides. More dishonors for the scrapbook of shame that he can savor after he is retired next November.