We Can No Longer Tolerate Trump’s Enablers

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What will it mean if any Republican members of Congress, including Iowa’s Joni Ernst and Chuck Grassley continue to support the President in light of the crimes revealed by Donald Trump’s National Security Adviser John Bolton in his new book, *The Room Where It Happened*? Perhaps it will reveal that they don’t care about and are not committed to the rule of law, ethical principles and the Constitution—and hence are unfit and unworthy of serving the country.

We can no longer permit these public servants to turn a blind eye to and enable the President’s unacceptable, if not illegal, behavior. Iowans have higher standards and should insist on senators who reflect those standards.

What is especially troubling is that many of these Republicans were not ignorant; no doubt some of them knew before and after the Impeachment hearings and trial about Trump asking China’s President
Xi to help him win re-election by buying crops from the mid-west, providing dirt on Vice President Biden, approving Xis’ intent to build concentration camps, as well as other illegalities and obstructions of justice.

Moreover, members of the U.S. Senate surely knew that Bolton’s testimony would directly connect the President withholding U.S. security aid to Ukraine with an investigation into his presumptive 2020 opponent—the key allegation in the Democrats' impeachment case. We must ask why Senators Ernst and Grassley did not insist on requiring Bolton to testify during the impeachment trial.

In short, with the possible exception of Mitt Romney, Republican senators like Ernst and Grassley violated their oath “to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” That violation, committed by both of Iowa’s senators should not be ignored and tolerated.

It is disgraceful that Bolton and others in Trump's Administration (and there are many, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly) refused to stand up when they were aware of the President’s numerous transgressions, lies, examples of incompetence, ignorance and dangerous actions. It is reasonable to infer that the serious crises the country now faces at home and abroad might not exist—or be as severe—had these public officials done their job. Make no mistake: They are and were complicit and therefore must be labeled accomplices.

We should also hold American citizens accountable. I am astonished that some people still will vote for Trump in November in view of what we are learning from Bolton’s book. What that suggests is that they believe in a dictatorship, not a democracy. This will not be forgotten; much as was the case for many citizens in Nazi Germany who looked...
the other way, history will record Trump voters’ acquiescence and failure to do the right thing.

There is only one cure for the Constitutional crisis threatening our democracy. We must vote out all Republicans in Congress who are up for re-election, including Joni Ernst. Put bluntly, the current Republican Party that Donald Trump hijacked and holds hostage must be dismantled and start anew, grounded in more noble ideals and an affirmation of constitutional principles.

Enough is enough. This is not a partisan claim but a matter of ethics.

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