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Legend:

- “¶” means we decided this question could be made public. In particular, Ann and her staff get to see it before the Corner event. We should emphasize that we are doing this because we don’t want to ask “gotcha” questions, and because we trust her not to abuse the information. We are hoping for a well-reasoned answer, not a crafty evasion.
- The questions are not in any particular order. They are structured to be mostly independent of one another.

1. ICE Raids ¶

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

The ICE raids in Mississippi were made possible in part by an increase in the department’s budget, recently enacted with the support of many Democrats. Provisions to control how the funds were used were not included in the bill. I realize that a more restrictive bill was blocked by #MoscowMitch – but two can play that game. Why not block the unrestricted bill in the house? The #toadstool says he likes to make deals. So offer a simple deal: If you want the money, you have to agree to stop the abuse.

Question: How will you use your position and resources to end ICE raids?

2. Immigration Hypocrisy and Demagoguery

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

Correct me if I’m wrong, but as I understand it, accepting a job as an undocumented worker is a misdemeanor, whereas knowingly hiring an undocumented worker is a felony.

Also, we are told that immigrants are a bunch of lazy freeloaders.

So why is it that ICE raids workplaces to arrest the workers, while the employers get off scott free? It looks like we have a problem with rampant hypocrisy and selective enforcement.

Politicians talk talk talk about immigration reform, but never do anything. Evidently the real policy is the same as it always has been, going back decades: employers want the immigrants to be here, but they want them to not have legal status, so they can easily be exploited. This drives down wages for immigrants and everybody else.

What are you going to do about this? The least you could do is hold hearings and make a big stink about it. Remember the #emails hearings? Remember the endless #Benghazi hearings? Each such hearing has a small effect, but it adds up.

Furthermore, why not demand a special prosecutor to look into all the TrumpOrg violations?

3. What More is Needed for Impeachment?

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

For more than a year, there have been 8 or 10 good grounds for impeachment already in the public record, including torturing children, flagrant emoluments, repeated obstruction of justice, cheating to win the office, using government agencies to torment political opponents, nonstop lying, illegal trade war, defying congress’s power of the purse, defying oversight, etc. etc. etc.... But congress takes all that in stride.

Instead, on July 17th, 2019, the house voted to censure #cadetBoneSpurs for – wait for it – mean tweets. So that’s where you draw the line. Mean tweets.

Do you have any idea how foolish and feckless that makes the congress look?

We were impressed by your speech on the floor of the house, but we need more than a 90-second speech. We need results.

For example, on June 8th you said you were “optimistic” that the Ways and Means committee would get the NY state tax returns soon. Yet as of now they have not even asked for those returns, nor even laid the groundwork for doing so.

Every day that goes by is another day of tolerating the intolerable.

Question: What is your “red line” on impeachment? How bad does it have to get before you treat this as an urgent, existential threat to the constitution, to democracy itself?

Note: congressional job approval: 17%. That’s a factor of 2 larger than it was a few years ago, but still pathetic. If I were you, I’d be worried about that. In particular, it’s a factor of $2\frac{1}{2}$ less than #spanky’s job approval.

4. Impeachment Runaround

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

For years, complicit Republicans and craven Democrats were hiding behind the Mueller investigation, using it as a pretext for not doing their jobs, even though there were 8 or 10 good grounds for impeachment already in the public record, with little or no connection to Mueller or Russia.

Question: If congress in general and Nancy Pelosi in particular had absolutely no intention of carrying out impeachment, and were just giving everybody the runaround, how would that look any different from what’s happening now?

Here’s a time-dishonored form of runaround: Some sneaky bureaucrat says it’s too soon, it’s too soon, it’s too soon, until one day they pivot to saying it’s too late.

Question: When does it stop being too soon? What exactly are you waiting for? What is your timeline for impeachment? When does each step in the process begin and end?

Followup question: If you don’t have a timeline, isn’t that a gross failure of leadership?

5. Policy versus Process

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

We are tired of hearing “process” arguments used as an excuse for nothing getting done. Billy in particular has repeatedly said we need to fill out a form, we need to send a letter, we need to call and set up an appointment ... but we have done that, again and again, and nothing happens. Conversely, even the simplest things that Billy explicitly promised to do are not getting done. So as to process, we are very much more sinned against than sinning.

Similarly, Billy has repeatedly told us “she’s not on the relevant committee, so there’s nothing she can do” Sorry, wrong answer. You are the only representative we’ve got. We have indentified a number of grave, urgent concerns. We need results. We need you to find a way to get results.

Billy has said that he is mad at us for “bugging” him and “bugging” you. Sorry, wrong answer. This is the job you and he signed up for. We’re trying to help you represent us, and to help you defend the constitution.

We would be more than happy if you would **lead** on these issues. Then wouldn’t have to bug you.

You are on the appropriations committee. Why not attach anti-reallocation riders to every single bill that comes through?

Question: What are you doing to **lead** on these issues? What are you doing to organize your Democratic colleagues in the house? What are you doing to educate the public about these issues? We can help amplify your message, but we need you to lead, not just follow.

6. Failure to Communicate

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

We have been trying since June to schedule a short meeting with you. Billy will not return our calls or emails. Matt Lubisich will not return our calls or emails. Why the runaround?

We have raised some serious, urgent issues. Please don’t ignore us. If you think we are wrong on the issues, please just say so. Have your outreach guy reach out and educate us on the issues. Suggest a better way of dealing with the issues.

The issues are not going to go away. And we are not going to go away.

Again: These are serious, urgent issues. Please don’t use process issues as an excuse for not getting results. Please don’t give us the runaround.

7. Gun Violence

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

Gun violence: Will you work to ban semi-automatic, high-capacity rifles? What actions are you taking?

8. Deceptive Bills

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

Please do not fall for the typical right-wing scam of passing a bill that pretends to do one thing but actually does something quite different, e.g.

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9. Migrant Protection Protocol ¶

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

The new “Migrant Protection Protocol” is an abomination. What have you done to overturn it? What more can be done?

10. Public Charge Rule ¶

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

The new “Public Charge Rule” is an abomination. What have you done to overturn it? What more can be done?

11. Riders

- A violence against women act passed the house and went nowhere in the senate.
- Ditto gun background checks.
- Ditto election security.

The question is, why not attach those measures as riders to must-pass legislation? That's playing hardball, but why not? Dare the Rs to shut down the government over issues that 70 or 80 percent of the population supports.

Rationale: Read the Indivisible Guide. The tea partiers developed a lot of hardball tactics that actually work. You know that if the Rs held the house the most extreme elements would be holding everything hostage until they got what they wanted. In contrast, why are the Ds such abject wimps that they can't take a stand over non-extreme highly-popular measures?

12. The End of Democracy ¶

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

- The House has mostly ceded its power of oversight, since the administration has openly adopted a policy of defying questions and even subpoenas.
- The House has mostly ceded its power to appropriate money, since the administration is using fake “emergencies” to pay for unapproved projects.
- Similarly, the House has mostly ceded its authority to set policy, since the administration is using fake “emergencies” to wage a trade war that is putting the entire world’s economic system at risk.
- Ditto for illegal arms sales.

What are you doing about this?

More pointedly: Why would you even want to be a member of an appropriations committee that has no power over the budget? Why be a house member at all? Why would Nancy Pelosi want to be speaker of a house that has no power over policy and no power of oversight?

Specific suggestion: Attach riders to must-pass legislation. Make it clear that fake emergencies are illegal.

13. Do the Easy Things First

Thank you for holding this “Corner” event. We know it is not easy for you. We cannot imagine what it’s like for Ron.

In his landmark 1973 book on impeachment, Charles L. Black said that congress should do all the easy things first. That is: To rein in a lawless president, they should do everything short of impeachment before taking the final drastic step.

Here are some examples of what I mean. The #fakepresident has been declaring fake “emergencies” so he can spend money on projects that advance his racist political agenda, without the approval of congress, thereby trampling on Article I Section 9 of the constitution. So why not just repeal (or heavily revise) the National Emergencies Act? Attach a rider to must-pass legislation. Attaching it to literally every bill would be OK with me, but attaching it to budget bills is essential. What’s the point of passing a budget if he’s going to ignore it?

Similarly, amend the laws so he can’t use a fake emergency as a pretext for starting a trade war that puts the entire world’s economic system in peril. For most of the last 230 years the congress was in charge of setting trade policy.

Similarly, amend the laws so he can’t use a fake emergency as a pretext for arms sales that are not approved by congress. We have seen this movie before, when the legislature decides that legislating is too much trouble, and lets the narcissist rule by decree. We saw this in Berlin circa 1934, and in Rome circa 0014. It does not end well.

Question: Why have you not even done the easy things?