

Will Congress Fulfill Its Duty To Oust Obama in Time?

by Nancy Spannaus

Aug. 20—Time is running out for Congress to fulfill its Constitutional responsibility to remove President Barack Obama from office, for his offenses against the Constitution, and for policies which represent a clear and present danger to the American Republic—ranging from his Nazi-like health-care policy, to his threats to provoke a new aggressive war in Syria, which could quickly escalate into a nuclear showdown with Russia and China.

Despite the plethora of scandals which have created the distinct aroma of Watergate around the President, on such matters as national security leaks and the stonewalling on turning over documents pertaining to the Justice Department's Fast and Furious gunwalking scheme, the Congress continues to retreat from action. Fear of the President's retaliation, especially among Democrats, or venal partisan political considerations among Republicans, have left the President in place.

It is a national outrage, for example, that only nine Congressmen (eight Republicans and one Democrat) have had the courage to sign on to Rep. Walter Jones' (R-N.C.) HCR 107, which simply reiterates the language of the U.S. Constitution on the responsibility to declare war, and states that violation of that provision should be a *prima facie* cause for impeachment, if *any* President committed such a violation.

Such cowardice could, of course, be reversed overnight, should leading American patriots take up their

own responsibility for acting to oust the President, utilizing any number of "issues," including the immediate passage of Rep. Marcy Kaptur's (D-Ohio) H.R. 1489. One spur to activating such a decisive move might well be the landing of Curiosity on Mars—an action which flies in the face of Obama's attempted sabotage of NASA, and arouses the passion within the American people necessary to remove the major obstacle to such achievements in the future, Barack Obama.

A Bipartisan Fight for Science

On Aug. 3, one hundred Congressmen sent a letter to Energy Secretary Steven Chu, on the need to get rid of the "burdensome bureaucracy" that is threatening the ongoing successful R&D work on achieving nuclear fusion, at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. Their term, "bureaucracy," is a polite expression for the impediments perpetrated by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), which the letter condemns as imposing "administrative, managerial and budgetary hurdles."

Such anti-science practices by the Obama Administration are coherent with the fact that Obama also called for crippling budget cuts to the U.S. domestic fusion research program, in his 2013 budget proposal, released in February. Obama's fusion budget cuts will shut down one of the three major research facilities at MIT, the

Alcator C-Mod, which is the largest single U.S. training facility for students in the field. This will set back scientific research in a devastating way, and also directly impact any future Mars program, which will depend upon the development of thermonuclear rocket propulsion as it advances toward a manned landing.

In February of this year, Obama proposed cutting the already paltry 2011 and 2012 annual fusion budget from \$401 million, to \$353 million for 2013, by trimming \$3 million outright (down to \$398), and then calling for a sneak-diversion of another \$45 million, away from the U.S. domestic programs (at Lawrence Livermore, MIT, Princeton, etc.), and sending the funds to the Europe-based ITER project, to meet international obligations for co-funding fusion research! Obama's so-called Science Advisor John Holdren defended this, saying it was focussing resources on "burning plasma," and allowing domestic programs to revert from "research status," down to "routine operations in support of stockpile stewardship."

Scientists raised alarms at the time, and formed a petition drive against this treason. A bipartisan group of 48 House members, led by Rush Holt (D-N.J.) and Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.), conducted a drive for fusion R&D support, culminating in June, when the House of Representatives authorized \$76 million to the Department of Energy fusion budget line, exceeding the \$53 million Obama had proposed removing. But the Senate remains in support of the Obama cuts.

The Aug. 3 letter was spearheaded by Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.), and is signed by lawmakers from across the country. It points out that, "NIF recently achieved a major milestone: the world's first successful firing of a 500 *terawatt* laser. While technical challenges remain to be solved before ignition is achieved, this milestone demonstrates major progress and provides even greater capability to address the remaining challenges. Recent technical reviews by independent experts indicate that there are no fundamental technical reasons that would preclude eventually achieving ignition."

The letter then states, "It would be severely disappointing to get so close to a tremendous scientific breakthrough—fusion ignition at NIF—only to see it prevented by bureaucracy. We must not let science be stifled by bureaucracy." Lofgren's office refers science-supporters to a forthcoming National Academy of Sciences report on "The Quality of the Management and of the Science and Engineering Research at the Depart-

ment of Energy's National Security Laboratories." The report is available [online](#).

The Mars Program Itself

A large bipartisan group of Congressmen and Senators has consistently opposed Obama's drastic cuts in the space program, since he first announced them in February of 2009. But they have so far been impotent to stop them, in no small part due to the fact that they have not taken the necessary action to free the nation from the bank bailout policy, by implementing Glass-Steagall, and then to implement a national credit policy, and they have refused to take on Obama directly. Thus, despite powerful testimony from former astronauts and others against the cuts, Congress has sat by and allowed the gutting of the Mars exploration program, with nary a peep to the public.

With the brilliant landing of the Curiosity rover on Mars, some Members of Congress, including some Democrats, are now speaking up, and acknowledging that the President, not the Republicans, are the problem. Exemplary was an op-ed penned by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), published in the *Washington Post* Aug. 17, and reprinted in numerous other papers. Schiff's constituency is NASA, in the sense that the Jet Propulsion Lab which is running the current Curiosity mission is in his district, but his appeal was larger.

Under the title "Curiosity Mars landing highlights NASA budget woes," Schiff wrote:

"...President Barack Obama's fiscal 2013 budget proposed cutting hundreds of millions of dollars from the Mars Exploration Program. Simply put, the crown jewel of the U.S. planetary science program is hanging by a budgetary thread...."

"We in Congress are doing our part: The House has moved to restore \$88 million of the administration's proposed cuts, and the Senate has moved to put back \$100 million. It is likely that even more of the funds will be restored in the final appropriations legislation...." But Schiff also apparently realizes that with continuing resolutions and threats of sequestration, good intentions can be easily swept aside. At the Mars Society conference in Pasadena on Aug. 4, Schiff called on the participants to petition their representatives "for an increase in NASA's budget, as well as a national commitment to lead an effort to put humans on Mars by a date certain."

He's right, but he has to go further: Obama must be removed from office now.