

Daddy, what's an emergency?

A little boy sat on his father's lap while his father read him a story. The Dad came to the part where the three little pigs' house was blown down by the big bad Wolf, and one of the pigs said, "Oh my goodness, it's an *emergency* where oh where shall we live?" The little boy looked up at his father and said, "Daddy, what's an emergency?" His father marked the page in the book and sat his son down next to him and said, "Son, when something bad happens that you don't expect to happen or maybe do expect to happen but not right away, it's an emergency."

The little boy looked confused. He said, "If I'm building a big tower out of blocks and it falls down, is that an emergency?" Father: "It could be if the blocks were endangering something else like being too close to your mother's vase of flowers or the cat's tail." Boy: "I see. What about if I don't eat my green beans, and you send me to my room with no TV, can I call that an emergency?" Father: "No, that's just a punishment for bad behavior." "Okay," said the boy. "Does that mean if Billy next door comes into our front yard and is frightening Bilbo our dog, is it an emergency and do we need to remove him from our yard?" Father: "Absolutely. That's a good example of an emergency where Billy could get hurt by Bilbo biting him and Bilbo could get hurt by Billy taunting him. Well done, my son."

It shouldn't be too difficult to classify things as emergencies or non-emergencies, but apparently it is for America's liberal Left. The Democrats' opposition to the President's recent order to declare a national emergency at our southern border is, in a word, unbelievable. According to Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen's briefing to the nation just a few months ago, "Illegal immigration at the southern border has exceeded 50,000 people each month, and this time last year, the U.S. has seen a 325% increase in the number of illegal immigrant children and a 435% increase in families entering the country, illegally." If those statistics weren't stark enough, over the last ten years there has been a 1,700% increase in asylum claims resulting in an asylum processing backlog of 600,000 cases.

Most Americans agree that there is a *problem* at the border, but some stop short of calling it a crisis or an emergency. Over 90% of Republicans, however, have no problem in agreeing with the President that our current situation is, indeed, a national emergency and that something must be done to stem the tide of further illegal immigration and clear out the backlog of asylum cases. Most political observers agree that the Congress will not find a comprehensive immigration solution anytime soon since they can't even agree on the necessity to secure the border. Democrats' stiffened opposition to the President who is trying to both solve a decades-long problem and fulfill a campaign promise borders on the treasonous.

As Secretary Nielsen stated, there are three major loopholes in our laws. "The first is the 2008 Trafficking Victims Prevention Re-authorization act or TTPR. This law, "...encourages families to put children in the hands of smugglers to bring them alone on this dangerous trek forward. The second is our asylum laws. We must reform them and stop their systematic abuse and fraud. Third, we need to amend the Flores Settlement Agreement and recent expansions which currently allow for family detention during the removal process, and we need Congress to fully fund our ability the U.S. ability to keep families together through the immigration process."

Now back to the emergency. It's too bad that in 1976 when the National Emergency Act was signed that no definition of just what a national emergency is was given. That would have made a big difference. But something tells me that it was left purposely vague to give the Executive Branch the ability to act, quickly, without having to endure long, drawn-out Congressional hearings. For those who've not read anything about the Act, the first national emergency was declared with respect to Iran and it was in response to the Iranian hostage crisis. This was done on November 14, 1979 by Pres. Carter. I feel confident, that knowing what we know today, everyone would agree that that was a national emergency.

President Clinton's first national emergency was about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (November 14 of 1994). Again, a no-brainer. On and on the list goes through 57 more. Each president felt in his heart and with the help of his advisers that this act should be used sparingly, but used when necessary and enforced. Donald Trump's first national emergency was issued on December 20, 2017, and it involved applying sanctions on a Myanmar general for human rights abuse or corruption in the persecution of Rohingya Muslims. I double-dog-dare the Democrats to disagree with Trump's use of the National Emergency Act in that case.

Our southern border is our front door, plain and simple. We have locks on the front doors of our homes to protect our families (and in some cases where homeowners possess firearms, to protect the people outside should they break in and be shot). We are allowed to protect our homes and our families against unlawful entry by the Constitution. Why should the southern border to our country be any different than the front door of our own homes? This is the fundamental question that must be answered by every Congressional Representative before they vote yea on a resolution to condemn the president for his actions in fortifying our defenses.

Because of the intense partisan climate that exists in the Congress today, I doubt that Democrat Congressional Representatives will have the courage to oppose their speaker and many of their constituents and do the right thing. The right thing is, of course, to allow the President to strengthen our border at its weaker points. Anything short of that is exceedingly foolish and extremely dangerous. The President has stated time and time again that a country is not a country without its borders. While that may not be true for the Democrats who live in the Peter Pan make-believe world of Never Never Land, it is true in the real world. Just ask many of the European Union nations that are battling massive illegal immigration problems.

America is not responsible for the well-being, health or wealth of the peoples of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala or Mexico. Their economies have been suffering for decades and the steady rise of violent crime and prices have pushed millions to consider emigrating to the United States. Something must be done by those governments to stabilize their own societies. We are neither the world's policeman nor the world's EMTs. Solutions must be found soon otherwise we will experience a steady stream of human caravans headed our way.

Our border patrol and customs officials are at their breaking point. They are being overwhelmed by increasing numbers of immigrants who are crashing through our front door. They must have the manpower, financial support and matériel necessary to do their job. Part of that is the rapid construction of barriers or walls along the most vulnerable parts of our border. Technology will play a big part in securing our future border, but it is simply not enough to have drones and surveillance cameras. Human beings in vehicles are needed to apprehend illegal border crossers. If the Democrats are too fixated upon opposing Donald Trump to realize this, then they are ignoring their oaths of office and deserve to be removed and replaced with people who see the defense of America as their first priority.

If we must treat the Democrats like the little boy on his father's lap instead of the intelligent adults they purport to be, then we will have no alternative but to excuse them from the table and treat them like the obstinate children they are.

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