

Congress Races to Remove Trump from Office

Incitement of insurrection is the charge

(AP) — The U.S. House pressed swiftly forward Tuesday toward impeachment or other steps to forcibly remove President Donald Trump from office for his role in last week’s deadly attack on the Capitol as a joint session of Congress met to certify President-Elect’s Joe Biden’s election victory.

The president, defeated in the Nov. 3 election, made his first remarks to reporters on Tuesday about the attack on the House and Senate, showing no remorse for his comments firing up the crowd ahead of the deadly invasion.

The House was also trying to convince Vice President Pence and Cabinet members to act even more quickly to remove Trump from office, warning he is a threat to democracy in the remaining days of his presidency.

Trump faces a single charge — “incitement of insurrection” — in the impeachment resolution that the House will begin debating Wednesday, a week before Democrat Joe Biden is set to be inaugurated, Jan. 20.

The unprecedented events, which could make Trump the first U.S. president to be twice impeached, are unfolding in a nation bracing for more unrest. The FBI has warned ominously of potential armed protests in Washington and all 50 states by Trump loyalists ahead of Biden’s inauguration

It all added up to stunning final moments for Trump’s presidency as Democrats and a growing number of Republicans declare he is unfit for office and could do more damage after inciting a mob that violently ransacked the U.S. Capitol last Wednesday.

A Capitol police officer died from injuries suffered in the riot, and police shot a woman during the violence. Three others died in what authorities said were medical emergencies.

Late Monday, the entire Congressional Hispanic Caucus, all 34 members, unanimously agreed to support impeachment, calling for Trump’s immediate removal.

Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania joined GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska over the weekend in calling for Trump to “go away as soon as possible.”

Pence has given no indication he would proceed with invoking the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office and no member of the Cabinet has publicly called for Trump to be removed from office,

Biden said Monday he has had



Violent protesters, loyal to President Donald Trump, storm the Capitol, in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6 as Congress began a joint session of the House and Senate to certify President-Elect Joe Biden’s Electoral College victory last Nov. 3. (AP photo)

conversations with senators ahead of a possible impeachment trial, which some have worried would cloud the opening days of his administration.

As for the rioters, Biden said, “It is critically important that there’ll be a real serious focus on holding those folks who engaged in sedition and threatening the

lives, defacing public property, caused great damage -- that they be held accountable.”

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, among Trump’s closest

allies in Congress, said in a letter to colleagues that “impeachment at this time would have the opposite effect of bringing our country together.”

The impeachment legislation also details Trump’s pressure on state officials in Georgia to “find” him more votes, as well as his White House rally ahead of the Capitol siege, in which he encouraged thousands of supporters last Wednesday to “fight like hell” and march to the building.

The mob overpowered police, broke through security lines and windows and rampaged through the Capitol, forcing lawmakers to scatter as they were finalizing Biden’s victory over Trump in the Electoral College.

While some have questioned impeaching the president so close to the end of his term, Democrats and others argue he must be prevented from holding future public office.

There is precedent for pursuing impeachment after an official leaves office. In 1876, during the Ulysses Grant administration, War Secretary William Belknap was impeached by the House the day he resigned, and the Senate convened a trial months later. He was acquitted.



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