

The House Democrats are now claiming the impeachment that ended in February is not really over. Their brief says they are weighing “whether to recommend new articles of impeachment.” And referring to Chairman NADLER’s Judiciary Committee, “the Committee’s investigation did not cease with the conclusion of the impeachment trial.” That is Chairman NADLER’s argument in a court case.

Perpetual investigation and perpetual impeachment—if only someone could have predicted this. If only anyone had warned that House Democrats’ opening the Pandora’s box of weak impeachments would affect our country into the future. Of course, Senate and House Republicans warned precisely that, and here we are.

It is a suitable complement to the other ongoing incident, where a Federal judge has taken it upon himself to prolong a case that the actual prosecutors want to drop.

These are fascinating legal standards. Investigations no longer end when a jury acquits someone and prosecutions no longer end when charges are dropped. The House Democrats would rather spend a fourth consecutive year trying to cram their politics into the legal system than actually govern the country during a pandemic.

Fortunately, as I laid out, the Senate is up to the job. Every single day, the historic CARES Act that we wrote and passed to fight this pandemic continues to come online. Direct payments hit families’ accounts. Support for major industries helps to prevent mass layoffs. Resources for doctors, nurses, hospitals, and healthcare providers help to stabilize the system from coast to coast.

The Paycheck Protection Program has saved tens of millions of jobs for American workers. From big cities to small towns, to industrial suburbs, to farm country, Senate Republicans’ bold program is turning potential pink slips into paychecks every single day.

To be sure, the program is imperfect. That was guaranteed when banks had to cram multiple years’ worth of lending into a few weeks. Yesterday, we saw a glaring example of that imperfection. The legislation we passed contains specific eligibility requirements. One rule said affiliates of national nonprofits could not pose as small nonprofits and ask for money. But because time was and is of the essence, the legislation set up a process of initial self-certification with review to follow, rather than lengthy vetting upfront that would have slowed the emergency money for rightful recipients.

We learned yesterday that the Nation’s largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, abused this emergency process and grabbed tens of millions of dollars of taxpayer money for which they were completely ineligible. This is the organization that fired its new president last year because she was too focused on broader health issues and not sufficiently fixated on

abortion above all else. Disrespecting human life is their central mission, and they just took advantage of a national crisis and helped themselves to tens of millions of taxpayer dollars they were clearly forbidden from taking.

It goes without saying that the money must be sent back immediately—right now. As we shine a light on Planned Parenthood’s misrepresentations, we cannot let their actions jeopardize this important program with the tens of millions of Americans who are benefitting from it rightly.

Remember, the PPP has pushed \$500 billion into the economy across more than 4 million loans. The average loan size is just \$118,000, giving paychecks instead of pink slips for tens of millions of Americans.

My hometown of Louisville, KY, is home to the baseball bat factory that makes the world-famous Louisville Slugger. For a few months, the bat factory was a temporary casualty of COVID-19. This month, the manufacturer secured a PPP loan, and 171 employees were pulled off furlough and put right back on the payroll. So 171 family stories went from pain and chaos back to stability because of this program. That is just one business in one city in one State.

There is also an automotive parts supplier and a hoagie shop in Michigan, a fresh flower shop in Arizona, a burger joint and a community nonprofit in North Carolina, and on and on and on. Four million loans across all 50 States and new loans are still being issued as we speak. This is what serious legislation looks like. This is what serious solutions can accomplish.

Every day, the Senate’s work is paying dividends to working families all across our country.

The pandemic is not all we are working on. The Senate is also staying on top of foreign relations, national security, and the personnel business.

Yesterday, the Intelligence Committee reported out the nomination of the next Director of the National Intelligence. The Armed Services Committee reported out nominations for Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

I hope our Democratic colleagues will not block the Senate from filling these key national security vacancies before we adjourn later this week.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRIAN MONAHAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, throughout this health crisis, the Senate, its Members, and our staffs have been lucky to have the steady leadership of Dr. Brian Monahan in our corner. Our Attending Physician has responded with the same ability and professionalism that have benefited Congress and the Supreme Court for more than a decade. His continued guidance is making it possible for the Senate to smartly and safely fulfill our constitutional duty to the American people.

The last time our Nation faced a pandemic on this scale, the 1918 Spanish flu, the Attending Physician’s office was still more than a decade away from even existing. Dr. Monahan has had to break unprecedented ground in his crucial role on multiple levels, but, true to form, he has adapted on the fly to serve his country.

Dr. Monahan has developed detailed advice for Members and committees. His team is working around the clock to answer questions and to keep us healthy. Expertise and attention to detail are nothing new from our Attending Physician, who has spent a proud career in military service. The Senate is lucky that the public service of this decorated rear admiral and celebrated instructor has brought him to us. We certainly are grateful to him and his entire team.

I am happy to report that we aren’t the only ones taking notice.

Mr. President, as a measure of our collective gratitude, I ask unanimous consent that this recent New York Times feature profile of Dr. Monahan be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, May 16, 2020]

DOCTOR TO CONGRESS AND SUPREME COURT
TOILS TO SIDESTEP POLITICS AMID PANDEMIC
(By Emily Cochrane)

WASHINGTON—When Senator John Barrasso, Republican of Wyoming, sought guidance on how to protect his family, including his 94-year-old father-in-law, when he returned home from the nation’s capital amid the coronavirus pandemic, a doctor offered him some blunt advice.

Don’t go home just yet, Dr. Brian P. Monahan, the attending physician of Congress, told Mr. Barrasso, directing him to quarantine for 14 days before rejoining his family. “You’re a visitor,” Dr. Monahan said.

But when House Democratic leaders wanted counsel on whether they could safely reconvene in the Capitol with Covid-19 still spreading—a debate with political dimensions as a partisan divide was emerging across the country over how quickly to reopen—Dr. Monahan was less absolute. Returning to Washington carried health risks he would not recommend taking, he told Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California and Representative Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, the majority leader. But it was up to them to decide what to do.

They opted to delay their return, and on Friday, partly because of Dr. Monahan’s warnings, moved forward with plans to institute remote voting in the future.

It was typical of Dr. Monahan, the 59-year-old Navy rear admiral who is known in the halls of the Capitol as much for his meticulous attention to medical detail as he is for his efforts to stay completely out of politics.

“He is both an executive with lots of health care responsibilities—particularly now—and also has the unique relationship with members that a small-town doctor would have with the patients he knows and sees,” said Senator Roy Blunt, Republican of Missouri and chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. “He’s in a unique role at a unique time.”

As government doctors have emerged as trusted public voices and political figures in the face of a fearsome pandemic—appearing

in White House news conferences and as witnesses at marquee hearings—Dr. Monahan has maintained an uncommonly low profile.

He never issued a public statement offering his opinion on whether Congress should reconvene, although he shared his warnings with House leaders and privately told senior Republican officials that his office did not have the capacity to screen all 100 senators for the coronavirus when they returned to work. When Alex M. Azar II, the health secretary, said he would send 1,000 tests to Capitol Hill to accommodate them, Ms. Pelosi and Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the majority leader, turned down the offer, wary of the optics of receiving special treatment at a time when testing was scarce—and prompting President Trump to suggest on Twitter that “maybe you need a new Doctor over there.”

Dr. Monahan, who declined to be interviewed, has been a calm and professional voice of reason during the pandemic, according to interviews with more than two dozen lawmakers, Capitol officials and medical professionals who know him. They say he has taken a personal interest in his influential clientele, which also includes the nine Supreme Court justices, even as he fields politically charged questions about reopening, testing and precautionary measures.

Operating out of a nondescript clinic tucked away in the heart of the Capitol, Dr. Monahan and a small staff have been exceedingly busy since the pandemic took hold, consulting with lawmakers who have contracted Covid-19 or exposed to someone infected with it, doling out health recommendations in detailed memos ahead of votes, and producing a series of videos released on an internal website to educate lawmakers and their staff on how to protect themselves.

Dr. Monahan has filmed and produced the videos by himself in his office, often seated next to an elaborate bouquet of white flowers and a tiny plastic model of a pangolin, the scaly mammal that may have been an intermediary carrier of the virus.

In the videos, he typically walks through the most recent recommendations offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and demonstrates medical equipment, such as a thermometer and a variety of masks (including one made by his wife, using a black shopping bag and a sewing machine).

“He has a big job—two houses of Congress, two parties to deal with—but he’s not political in any way,” Ms. Pelosi said. “He treats us all with respect, and we respect his judgment in return.”

Dr. Monahan in 2009 became the seventh man to serve as attending physician, taking up a position that has always been held by a Navy doctor. The House first approved a Navy officer to work out of the Democratic cloakroom in 1928 after one lawmaker died and two collapsed, with several hours passing before a doctor could arrive in each case. Two years later, the Senate extended that doctor’s jurisdiction to include its own members, leading to the establishment of the Office of the Attending Physician.

The office provides care to lawmakers for a fee, as well as offering some services and emergency care to staff and tourists. The first physician, Dr. George W. Calver, who began his work just before the start of the Great Depression, displayed placards in cloakrooms and elevators across the Capitol with his nine “Commandments of Health,” including “Accept Inevitables (don’t worry)” and “Relax Completely.”

Dr. Monahan was born in Connecticut, the son of Irish immigrants who came to the United States in the 1950s. His mother grew up in Kilkee, while his father grew up in a house with a thatched roof without running

water or electricity in Lissycasey. The first in his family to attend college, he worked full-time at a supermarket while commuting in a yellow Volkswagen Beetle to Fairfield University, a Jesuit college—an education, he would tell graduates in 2011, that meant, “you are called to be ‘men and women for others.’”

He studied biology and chemistry, and after graduating, joined the Navy through its Health Professions Scholarship Program, enticed in part by the offer of free tuition and a living allowance in exchange for a commitment to three years of service.

“Brian was always the smartest kid in the class,” said Dr. William Dahut, a medical oncologist who spent time with him in both medical school and the Navy. “If there was a publication or data, Brian knew that data and knew that well.”

In 1989, as a resident in the cardiology ward in what was then the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., he treated a 39-year-old woman for potentially fatal cardiac arrhythmias. The patient had taken the popular antihistamine Seldane, and his contribution to research on that medicine—and its connection to the arrhythmias—later helped lead to its removal from the market.

Dr. Monahan rose through the ranks of the Navy, becoming a professor of medicine and pathology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Maryland, as well as participating in a number of national organizations related to cancer, oncology and hematology.

While serving as the Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the university, he received a call for a meeting in which officials with congressional leadership asked him to become the attending physician on Capitol Hill when his predecessor retired.

He has since become a fixture on Capitol Hill, participating in congressional trips and functions and releasing health assessments for presidential and vice-presidential contenders, including Senators Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent, and Tim Kaine, Democrat of Virginia. (Mr. Kaine also asked him for “a tuneup” before hiking the Virginia section of the Appalachian Trail.)

In 2016, it was Dr. Monahan’s assessment of Justice Antonin Scalia’s health at the time of his death—including sleep apnea, coronary artery disease, obesity and diabetes—that influenced the decision to decline an autopsy of the justice, The Associated Press reported at the time.

“He was the one who advised me to go to the hospital,” said Representative Ben McAdams, Democrat of Utah and one of the first lawmakers to contract the virus, said of Dr. Monahan. “He was clear: ‘I strongly recommend you go to the hospital—this is serious.’”

The congressman has spoken with the doctor at least a dozen times since, he said in an interview on Thursday—but had yet to meet Dr. Monahan in person.

An avid photographer, Dr. Monahan’s photos are present in offices around the Capitol—and he has been known to offer advice on how to best capture a scenic landmark or vista on trips overseas.

He checks in with his powerful patients frequently, including long after they have recovered.

“I’ve been around for a long period of time, and he just takes more of a personal interest than anyone else I’ve ever known in that position,” said Senator James M. Inhofe, Republican of Oklahoma and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who has been on Capitol Hill for more than three decades. “He just seems to be genuinely interested in me—and he’s that way with everybody.”

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, we thank the good doctor for all he

does for this institution and for his country.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anna M. Manasco, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, we are going to complete 3 weeks of Senate activity, called together by Senator McCONNELL at a time when the House of Representatives, under the guidance of Dr. Monahan, who was just praised—and I join in that praise—was not in session when the Senate came to session.

I said at the time that it was our responsibility to be here. That is why we ran for office. Important things need to be decided, and we need to be part of it for the good of the Nation.

We are about to complete 3 straight weeks without one measure on the floor of the Senate relating to the national public health emergency—not one. There have been hearings in some committees, yes, but activity on the floor of the Senate, no. No bill was brought to the floor.

In fact, there was an attempt yesterday to bring a resolution that said the United States should be involved in the global international effort to find a vaccine. It was objected to on the Republican side. The reason the Senator objected to it—the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—is that he wants to take up the measure in his committee at some later date. I encourage that Senator to do it quickly.

I think there is a sense of urgency across America in terms of this national health emergency that we face.