

the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King—burnings, looting, confrontations, things that sadly look exactly like they did some 50 years ago.

The reality is this: In America, we are given a constitutional right to express our feelings, our free speech, and our free assembly. Those rights are important and should be valued and respected, but those rights to march and demonstrate, as people are doing right outside this building at this very moment, cannot be taken to the point where they have reached an extreme and become destructive. Speaking, assembling, exercising your constitutional right does not include looting. It doesn't include arson, vandalism, or violence. In fact, those actions detract from the underlying message that calls for positive change in America.

I am glad that leaders like JOHN LEWIS, my dear friend and former colleague from the House of Representatives, has made that point. His voice on the subject is much more articulate and more convincing. He has reminded us that if we are to move America to the place where it must be, then we must do it in a nonviolent fashion within the law, not breaking the law.

His name was George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American. He died in the streets of Minneapolis with the knee of a police officer on his neck for almost 9 minutes. He cannot be forgotten. And all the others I have mentioned must also be remembered. It is time for us and it is time for our generation to say: Enough.

I yield the floor.

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.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING GEORGE FLOYD

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today at a time of great sorrow, anger, and fear for our Nation. We face the confluence of a health crisis, an economic depression, and a killing that laid bare the racial injustice that still taints our country.

The horrific death of George Floyd in Minnesota was reprehensible. It was beyond a tragedy. It was a crime.

As Americans, we all need to frankly acknowledge and work to resolve our longstanding, ongoing struggles with racial inequality. The President should help to heal the racial divisions in this country. It is at times like this that a President needs to speak to the Nation to pledge to right wrongs and to calm inflamed passions.

The right to gather in protest of injustice is enshrined in our Constitution. The desire for reconciliation is in our national character. We must join

together to ensure that the legacy of George Floyd is of progress, not deepening division and hatred.

Let me be clear. The vast majority of our law enforcement officers are brave men and women devoted to protecting our families, our belongings, and our communities. They deserve our heartfelt gratitude as they willingly risk their lives for ours when danger strikes.

In Maine, we are fortunate to have so many terrific professional law enforcement officers devoted to their duty and devoted to doing what is right.

It is, however, imperative that we examine and act on the racial disparities in law enforcement where they occur.

I cannot believe that George Floyd would have had his neck stepped on and the life squeezed out of him had he been White. Sadly, there are many other examples as well.

I remember our own Senator TIM SCOTT describing his being stopped by a police officer while driving many times during one year, even though he was abiding by all the traffic laws. That is harassment and simply wrong.

In confronting these problems, we would do well to heed the words of Congressman LEWIS in response to the violence that overwhelmed peaceful protests in his city of Atlanta last weekend. Of course, we all know that the Congressman is a civil rights icon as well as an extraordinary Member of Congress. He said this:

Justice has, indeed, been denied for far too long. Rioting, looting, and burning is not the way. Organize. Demonstrate. Sit-in. Stand-up. Vote. Be constructive, not destructive. History has proven time and again that non-violent, peaceful protest is the way to achieve the justice and equality that we all deserve.

Those are powerful words from Congressman LEWIS. Those are words that should motivate and guide all of us.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said:

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

By continuing to listen to one another and being guided by the words of Congressman LEWIS, Dr. Martin Luther King, and the mayor of Atlanta, we can work toward improving social justice and eliminating racial disparities in this country, and we can drive out the forces of bigotry.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of John Leonard Badalamenti, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

NOMINATION OF JOHN LEONARD BADALAMENTI

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to proudly support the confirmation of Judge John Badalamenti to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of Florida. Judge Badalamenti has a distinguished record of public service, during which he has demonstrated a deep and abiding respect for the rule of law and a commitment to upholding the U.S. Constitution.

He served as an Assistant Federal Defender in the Middle District of Florida for nearly a decade, and, as Governor of Florida, I had the privilege to appoint him to the Second District Court of Appeal in 2015. During his time on the State appellate bench, he has consistently demonstrated his keen legal acumen and devotion to upholding the proper function of the judiciary in our democratic system.

I am proud of the work he has done, and I am proud to support his confirmation to the Federal bench today, where he will continue to serve our State and Nation well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Badalamenti nomination?

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "Yea" and