The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, ruler of the universe, we rejoice because You are near. Lord, we are grateful we belong to You, and You desire us to call You our Father in good and bad times. We can face any calamity with the knowledge that nothing can separate us from Your love. Death and life can’t. Our fears for today and our worries about tomorrow can’t. Whether we are high above the clouds or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation can separate us from You. May this knowledge of Your abiding and indestructible love inspire our Senators to trust You with all their hearts and depend upon Your wisdom.

We pray in Your awesome Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY, President pro tempore.

Mrs. CAPITO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, our Nation is caught within a number of grave problems at the same time.

This week, in cities all across America, the pain of racial injustice has been compounded by violent riots that have drowned out peaceful protests and hurt innocent people. Millions of working families continue to face the historic economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, including unemployment levels not seen in decades, and, lest we forget, the actual pandemic itself is still with us. The virus continues to claim hundreds of American lives every day, challenge healthcare professionals, and paralyze schools, universities, and employers that are eager to reopen. Of course, there is also the important business we would have needed to have addressed even before the pandemic.

So, for all of these reasons and more, while the Democratic House of Representatives may be absent—with no plans to return for weeks and weeks—the U.S. Senate is here and working for the American people.

This week, we are filling more critical vacancies throughout our government. Yesterday, we confirmed the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Response. This is a brand new position born of immediate necessity and goals shared by Members of both parties. Yet, though our Democratic colleagues said for weeks that CARES Act oversight was a top priority, our colleagues chose to delay this nomination for as long as possible. When the rubber met the road, yet again, picking small fights with President Trump took precedence over urgent work for the common good.

At the same time, we also hear from the very same Democratic colleagues that they wish the Senate would spend less time on nominations. Well, the good news is that the Senate Democrats can change that whenever they want, but as long as they continue to visit delays and obstruction on even these lower level executive branch appointments, just for the sake of irritating the White House, the Senate will continue to do our job the hard way.

Of course, in the weeks ahead, we will also tackle significant legislation.
for our country. We will turn to legislation to strengthen the implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program for the workers and small businesses that are struggling to weather this storm. We will consider a bipartisan bill from Senators DAIIIES and GARDNER to protect American workers and small businesses from certain public lands. For the 60th consecutive year, we will also take up the National Defense Authorization Act to help guide the strategic and operational priorities of our Nation’s Armed Forces in the face of evolving threats.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, make no mistake, the foreign actors who seek to harm the United States have not let up while we have attended to other problems. For example, in Afghanistan, despite agreeing just months ago to engage in further peace negotiations with the Afghan Government and sever its ties with al-Qaida, the Taliban has, instead, continued its violent campaign against the Afghan people.

President Trump has expressed frustration with the Taliban’s failures and is reportedly considering withdrawing from Afghanistan even more rapidly. Yet, as we weigh our options, we must not forget the painful lessons of the last administration’s mistakes.

Former President Obama and Vice President Biden were intent on beating a hasty retreat from Iraq, conditions on the ground notwithstanding. Just as many of us warned at the time, their recklessness left a vacuum that terrorists and Iran readily filled. ISIS flourished. Tragically, the rest is history. The resulting chaos threatened our interests and drew American efforts back into the region.

By contrast, the Trump administration has seen a number of successes in this difficult region. The President’s strategy has secured a territorial defeat of ISIS. It has put new pressure on Iran and given the Iraqi people a fighting chance, which their new government seems inclined to take.

Yet helping Iraq stand up to Iranian influence will not be an overnight project. Iran wants to drive the United States from the region. China and Russia would also be thrilled with a reduction in American presence and influence there. So, as we struggle to clean up the broken pieces of one rushed withdrawal, we need to avoid repeating those mistakes somewhere else.

I applaud the Trump administration for its approach thus far in Afghanistan. The President has taken constraints off U.S. forces. We have helped Afghan forces go after the terrorists. We have ratcheted up the costs on the Taliban, bolstered the Afghan forces that bear the brunt of the violence, and won international support for our mission there. We have done all of this with fewer resources and fewer personnel than during the previous two administrations. The President’s strategy and diplomacy have helped create a path for discussions among Afghans—the only thing that could actually secure the country’s future.

If these qualified successes continue, it would be appropriate to further reduce our American presence as certain conditions are met, but we must retain enough forces and influence to maintain our counterterrorism capabilities. Given recent reports and our long-standing experience, we cannot just trust that the Taliban will sever ties to al-Qaida and other terrorist networks. We need to be vigilant. We need to maintain enough presence to judge whether the Taliban complies with agreements and help the Afghan Government impose consequences if it does not. We need to maintain enough presence to preserve our strategic foothold against ISIS, the Haqqani Network, and al-Qaida. We should also maintain enough presence to help prevent a full replay of Iraq or Syria—a bloodbath and a human rights collapse, particularly for generations of Afghan women.

Last year, a bipartisan supermajority in the Senate voted for an amendment I authored, which warned against precipitous withdrawals from Afghanistan and Syria in ways that could jeopardize the hard-won progress we have attained, embolden Iran and Russia, and create more pain for us and everyone else in the future.

Our enemies would be thrilled if the United States would grow too tired to continue the hard work of standing with our partners, confronting our adversaries, and maintaining measured leadership that projects our security around the world. Our enemies would be delighted if we would grow too weary to act in our own long-term interest. We must not give them that satisfaction.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 James H. Anderson, of Georgia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

PROTESTS AND BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this has been a very difficult week after what has been a very difficult few months. A nation, beleaguered by disease and economic depression, has once again come face-to-face with the racial injustice that infects our society. The death of George Floyd in police custody was a searing reminder of a long list of unarmed African Americans whose lives have been taken under similar circumstances—Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many others—a well of grief and loss and pain that we need to express.

Yesterday, our caucus held a somber, emotional, and very personal meeting, during which our Members shared their own lived experiences of racism and spoke about what we need to do next because the truth is, while speeches and protests are vital, they will never be enough.

We need greater accountability and transparency in police departments and reformed police practices so these events don’t happen in the first place. We need to reform the criminal justice system that is still too short on justice and begin chipping away at the racial disparities that exist in healthcare, housing, education, and in the economy.

These issues will not be solved in a week or a month or in a year. Let’s hope they can be solved in a decade. But I will be damned if we don’t at least try to make some progress. Already, my colleagues Senators BOOKER, HARRIS, CARDIN, KLOBUCHAR, DUCKWORTH, SCHATZ, SMITH, and others are working with the Congressional Black Caucus in the House to develop legislation to address a number of issues related to police violence and racial justice. Senate Democrats will not wait to propose and push for bold, bold change.

Will our Republican colleagues join us? Leader MCCONNELL, commit to put a law enforcement reform bill on the floor of the Senate before July 4.
I have made this request for several days without an answer from the Republican leader. Even more disappointing, the Republican leader blocked a simple resolution I offered last night that reaffirmed Americans’ constitutional rights to peaceful protest, the American tradition of peaceful protest.

There was no partisan rhetoric in this resolution. It was three simple concepts, a recitation of the facts, but because Senate Republicans are so afraid—shivering—at the thought of criticizing the President, even when they know his actions are way out of line, Leader McConnell came and blocked this resolution. Shame, shame, shame.

We all know there are very few public checks on President Donald Trump. Where are they? Where are they? Where are they?

Even a columnist like George Will has shown a disgust at the Republican Senate, and he is a conservative, for their failure to stand up to Donald Trump on issues like this. All too often on thorny issues such as gun safety, racing justice, and police reform, my Republican colleagues sort of say what is on his mind. Where are they? Where are they?

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other Republican senators have said they are concerned about President Trump’s actions. But that is what they are doing. They all know that we have to do a lot more on testing. They all know they need more. They all know we haven’t solved the economic problem—far from it. They all know that we have to do a lot more on testing.

So our Republican majority doesn’t seem to have time to address a cascading series of national crises—no time. Why is that?

Where is President Trump? Where is his Cabinet? They all know that we need more. They all know we haven’t solved the economic problem—far from it. They all know that we have to do a lot more on testing.

The American people should be furious with the President as well. On Monday night, Americans watched Federal officers, under the direction of the President and the Attorney General, use gas and rubber bullets to disperse a crowd of peaceful protestors in a public park so that the President could stage a photo op in front of a church, waving the Holy Bible as a prop.

Last night, Americans saw an even more haunting image on the internet and their televisions: rows of camouflaged troops standing at attention on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, like an occupying force defending a critical position. The Senate is here doing work, and the American people are furious with the President. Last night, Americans saw an even more haunting image on the internet and their televisions: rows of camouflaged troops standing at attention on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, like an occupying force defending a critical position.

When you see the image of troops deployed for combat flanking the Lincoln Memorial, an altar of freedom, you cannot help but think of Tiananmen Square. This administration ordered Federal officers to gas peaceful protestors and charge on horseback and defend our monuments like battlefield positions. We all know there are very few public checks on President Donald Trump. Where are they? Where are they? Where are they?

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other Republican senators have said they are concerned about President Trump’s actions. But that is what they are doing. They all know that we have to do a lot more on testing. They all know we haven’t solved the economic problem—far from it. They all know that we have to do a lot more on testing.

So our Republican majority doesn’t seem to have time to address the COVID national crisis, but do you know what it does have time for? Chasing President Trump’s wild conspiracy theories. It sounds like the death knell of the Republican Party as we know it. They are committed to what is happening while Senate Republicans are doing: not giving the relief Americans need more. They all know we haven’t solved the economic problem—far from it. They all know that we have to do a lot more on testing.

The Republican Party seems to have time to address a cascading series of national crises—no time. Why is that?

Where is President Trump? Where is his Cabinet? They all know that we need more. They all know we haven’t solved the economic problem—far from it. They all know that we have to do a lot more on testing.

[Continues as per the original text]
we haven’t passed any legislation. Well, the week before the Memorial Day break we passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act reauthorization, a critical piece of national security and intelligence legislation that all our intelligence experts tell us is critical for winning the war against terrorists. Pretty important legislation, I would say.

He pointed out that the agenda for the month of June doesn’t include much more. We are only if you don’t think that the National Defense Authorization Act is not important. Funding the military, authorizing the weapons systems, paying the personnel, the technology, the intelligence, all the things that go into protecting the country seem to me to be pretty important.

So the National Defense Authorization Act is a piece of legislation that the Senate will process during the upcoming week. In the month of June, we will probably take a good week to move across the floor of the Senate. It typically does. It is something we have to do on an annual basis, but there is nothing more important and more critical to the national security of the United States than the National Defense Authorization Act.

We will be passing a major parks bill this next week, which will help fund the backlog in a lot of our national parks—something that has been a priority for many Democrats here in this Chamber for a long time. In fact, it is a great bipartisan bill. In fact, I think, out of the Democratic caucus, there are somewhere on the order of 43 of the 47 Democrats who are cosponsoring the piece of legislation that will be called up later this week and be on the floor most of next week.

So it is something that has been around here for a while. It is going to be a major legislative accomplishment. It will be a bipartisan accomplishment when it passes.

I think we should just say that the fact that we aren’t doing the things the Democratic leader wants to do doesn’t mean the Senate isn’t very busy. The things he wants to do, the things he talks about wanting to do, are things that we are doing. We are dealing with the coronavirus on a daily basis around here.

I am a member of the Senate Finance Committee. Yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee had a hearing in which officials from the FDA, for example, critical agencies when it comes particularly to pharmaceuticals in this country, attended, and the subject of the hearing was the pharmaceutical supply chain and what we need to do to shore that up, to make sure that in future pandemics, with lessons learned from this one, we aren’t dependent upon unreliable supply chains in places around the world that, frankly, may not be there, much of legislation in ensuring that we keep food in the grocery stores.

We are going to be looking at both the highway aspect, the rail aspect—all the commerce going, that we keep food in the grocery stores.

Today, in the Senate Commerce Committee, another committee on which I serve, we are going to be examining the impact of the coronavirus on our transportation infrastructure and how important this transportation has been throughout the course of this pandemic. We are keeping commerce going, that we keep food in the grocery stores.

We are going to be looking at both the highway aspect, the rail aspect—all the commerce going, that we keep food in the grocery stores.

So we are consistently looking at, on a daily basis, the coronavirus, the impact it is having on our economy, the impact it is having on the health of people in this country, the health emergency, and putting measures in place that would deal not only with health emergency but also with the economic impact of it.

In the meantime, we are seeing the economy start to open up again, which I think is a very good thing. I am hopeful we will see, as the economy opens up, that people will get out, consumers will shop, and jobs will return. We will see that economy start to grow again, jobs to come back.

Obviously, we have very high unemployment right now—a major concern. We also have a major unemployment issue to deal with that was unaddressed by this Congress earlier to provide assistance and help for those who, through no fault of their own, have had to go on unemployment.

So I would just say that the fact that we aren’t focused on the coronavirus is completely missing the point—as is to suggest, also, that we haven’t done a lot already. We passed four major pieces of legislation, totaling almost $3 trillion, and that is $3 trillion if you include the amount of leveraged money we gave to the Federal Reserve and the Treasury to extend credit and create liquidity out there. With the power of that leverage, it is somewhere on the order of about $6 trillion in assistance that we have put out there through different legislative vehicles to the American people.

So you are seeing that translated into the Paycheck Protection Program, which is keeping people employed, keeping jobs in this country, keeping businesses open and operating. It has been a very successful program.

You are seeing it in the form of direct assistance to State and local governments. And $150 billion has been put into the highways. We have put money into the highways. We have put money into vaccines, in diagnostic testing, and all the money that has gone out to hospitals and nursing home providers and long-term care facilities to help them get through this crisis in the form of direct assistance. So there is a lot of money in the pipeline—as I said, about $2.9 trillion that has already been authorized, and I think about 40 percent, maybe, has been spent. So there is still a lot of assistance going out.

My friend, the Democratic leader, would want to put a whole bunch more money out there without knowing what the need is, and I think, at a time when we are already running a $21 trillion deficit, and we have $25 trillion in debt, we ought to be very circumspect and pay attention to what is happening in our economy, what the needs are, what we need to keep the economy opening up and responding, what we continue to help people who are unemployed, what we continue to need to do to help families in this country who are struggling through this crisis.

But we ought to do that based on the need, not just somebody saying: Well, let’s just throw a bunch more money out there and hope that it has an impact. We have done that. We have flooded the zone with dollars. There is a tremendous amount of resources out there right now, a lot of which has yet to be spent, and it strikes me, at least, that the way we look at the eyes of Americans, they would view it as pretty important, before we spend more tax money—all of which, I might add, is going to be borrowed money—that we see how what we have done already is working, if it has been effective and is having the desired impact.

There is so much going on around here dealing with the coronavirus, it just completely defies any sort of logic to what the Democratic leader suggested was happening here in the Senate.

He made one other comment, which I think I have to respond to. He said that the Senate is in the process—Republicans in the Senate are processing right-wing judges who have antipathy for the very civil rights issues that we are dealing with right now.

I don’t know how you can make a statement like that. I don’t know how you can ascribe motive or intent to judges. You don’t know who these judges are.

We have a judge we are going to be processing here for the DC circuit. It is...
a pretty important circuit in this country. He is the district judge from Kentucky. He has been rated as very "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. The American Bar Association isn't a rightwing group at all. In fact, many of our colleagues here would think they certainly don't drift the other direction. Yet they have said this judge is a well-qualified judge. Do you think they would be saying something like that about a judge who had antipathy for civil rights? I mean, that is just what they would say. A reckless and irresponsible statement unless you have something to back that up and support it.

So I just thought it would be important to respond to some of the things that the Democratic leader just said with respect to the agenda here in the Senate, which, as I pointed out earlier, is a very full one. If you compare it to the agenda of our colleagues in the House, which has encouraged American companies to invest in the latest communications infrastructure and new technologies to make more efficient use of spectrum.

Our Nation is currently preparing for the widespread installation of the small cells that are necessary for 5G networks, enhancing the availability of the mid-band spectrum that is necessary for 5G deployment, and investing in a 5G workforce. But there is also another aspect we need to think about when it comes to 5G, which is sometimes not talked about as much, and that is network security. With its incredible speed and connectivity, 5G will usher in a new era of innovation: advances in medical care, large-scale deployment of precision agriculture, safer transportation technologies. 5G will bring all of these things and more.

But like any new technology, 5G networks will present new risks and vulnerabilities. And because 5G will mean a vastly greater number of connected devices, the risks with 5G will be greater. That is why a central part of deploying 5G means looking at how we can mitigate security risks.

We need to ensure that our component parts of our devices and, critically, the component parts of telecommunications networks, like cell towers, that will be required for 5G, are secure. A primary way to do that is by ensuring that 5G equipment comes from trusted vendors. Currently, one of the biggest suppliers of 5G equipment worldwide is a Chinese company, Huawei, which is supported by the Chinese Government. China's 2017 national intelligence law requires Chinese companies to support the Chinese Government's intelligence activities. It was driven by business officials have raised concerns that much of Huawei's equipment is built with back doors that give the Chinese Government access to global communications networks.

I don't need to tell anyone that we should be wary of China's motives and that China's interests are frequently opposed to those of the United States. China's handling of the coronavirus is a striking current example of the Chinese Government's prioritizing its own interests or pride over the public good. As a New York Times article noted in February, "The [Chinese] government's initial handling of the epidemic... was uncharacteristically transparent. At critical moments, officials chose to put secrecy and order ahead of openly confronting the growing crisis to avoid political alarm and political embarrassment."

Whether by the hubris of the Communist Party or merely the callous indifference the Communist state has for the well-being of its own citizens, China was not transparent about the grave danger of COVID-19. It failed to share information about the nature and spread of the virus, and it took active steps to make sure the truth did not get out in other ways. Whistleblowers were punished; the centers were censored; and journalists were expelled. Despite the fact that its negligence undoubtedly contributed to the global spread of COVID-19, China still continues to be less than forthcoming about the unfortunate fact this is a run-of-the-mill governing in China, as we saw with the SARS outbreak in the early 2000s and as we have seen in many other instances. Not content with its role in aggravating the outbreak of the coronavirus, the Chinese Communist Party has also taken advantage of the pandemic to strip Hong Kong of its autonomy and freedom. China's hope is that our Nation is too preoccupied with this pandemic to notice its efforts to undermine what should be Hong Kong's autonomy under the one state, two systems construct.

We have noticed. As many of my colleagues and I have expressed, we stand with Hong Kong. We must carefully consider an appropriate response, one that will rebuke the Communist Party of China without negatively affecting the people of Hong Kong, their wellbeing, and their democratic aspirations.

We didn't need COVID-19 or China's recent actions in Hong Kong to know that giving the Chinese Government a backdoor into American communications networks is a bad idea. But it certainly underscores the need to make sure that 5G infrastructure is not made by companies beholden to the Chinese Government. The United States has taken a number of steps to prevent equipment from Huawei and another suspect Chinese company, ZTE, from being used in U.S. communications networks, but these companies still pose a risk to the United States.

For starters, some U.S. broadband providers, often in rural areas, still have equipment from Huawei and ZTE in their communications networks. A number of our allies and trade partners—entities with whom we regularly share information, including sensitive national security information—have used or are using technology from Huawei and ZTE.

What can we do? An initiative is already underway to replace suspect telecommunications components in U.S. networks with hardware from trusted companies. In March, the President signed legislation developed by the Commerce Committee chairman, ROGER WICKER, the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, to help speed up this process. This legislation, which I cosponsored, will help small telecommunications providers with the cost of replacing network components that pose a security risk.

Also, in March, I introduced legislation to help address the other part of the problem, and that is the use of Huawei technology by our allies and our trading partners. We regularly exchange information, including sensitive national security information, with our allies and trading partners. And this information can only be secure if networks on both ends are secure. That is why the United States has called for other countries to reject telecommunications technology from Huawei and ZTE.

A number of countries have committed to using trusted companies to build out their telecommunications networks, but other countries are still planning to make use of Huawei's technology. My legislation, the Network Security Trade Act, would make telecommunications security a key objective when negotiating future trade deals.

We should be using trade agreements to push for enhanced network security globally, which would benefit not only our country but every country with which we do business.
We recently opened negotiations on a new trade deal with the United Kingdom, which has been using Huawei technology to build its 5G networks. I am pleased that it now looks like the UK is reconsidering its use of Huawei components. I hope they will decide to reject this technology.

I hope the trade negotiations will emphasize the importance of using trusted companies to build out the UK’s telecommunications networks. The security of our communications with our NATO partners and particularly those allies like Britain—needs to be a priority.

As we move forward into the 5G future, we need to make sure that our technological advancements are matched with advancements and network security. That starts with keeping Huawei and other suspect technology out of our networks and, if at all possible, out of the networks of our allies.

We must continue to do everything I can to ensure that we have not only the infrastructure but the security needed to keep American networks at the forefront of the telecommunications revolution.

Before I close, let me just say one more word about China. As I said earlier, China’s coronavirus deception is undoubtedly partly responsible for the fact that this virus has now spread to every corner of the world. China’s recent actions with regard to Hong Kong underscore the hostility of the Chinese Government to the values that freedom-loving countries hold dear.

China has a lot of work to do if it ever hopes to rebuild trust with other nations. At a bare minimum, we expect China to uphold its recent trade commitments, which are critical to America’s hard-hit farmers and ranchers. I will be looking, and our entire government will be looking, to see if China’s word is reliable now.

I hope that the Chinese Government will live up to its commitments. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, the senior Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request is granted.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I note with some interest that one Republican colleague after another comes to the floor—their “protect the President at all costs” colleagues, no matter what he does, no matter what he says, no matter how he acts, no matter how incompetent, no matter how divisive—and continues to point their fingers at the Chinese for the coronavirus. God knows, China deserves heaps of blame for that. And yet, the early spread of the coronavirus. There is no question they deserve a lot of blame for the outbreak in the early spread, and they are lying about it. But keep in mind that we are 5 percent of the world’s population, and 30 percent of the deaths from the coronavirus have been Americans. This President continues to make excuses and point fingers. And the complaints, one shoe (shoe) like Members of the Republican Caucus, the President continues to stay quiet, continue to do nothing about this President’s behavior and the 105,000 deaths from coronavirus in this country.

PROTEST

Mr. President, the protests around our State, throughout our country, are an expression of fear and grief and frustration and of anger. Black communities led the Nation in mourning the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor over the last week. They are now leading calls for justice and long-term changes to dismantle the systems of oppression that hold them back.

Instead of listening to those calls from the people who live in this country, instead of offering leadership and risking in meeting this moment—as every one of his predecessors in this country—President Trump fails yet again. Instead of offering support and comforting, he stokes fear. He points fingers. He places blame. Instead of healing, he rubs salt in the open wounds of Black Americans.

On Monday night, the President of the United States placed the arm of the state on peaceful protesters—we saw the video—tear-gassing the citizens he is supposed to serve, all so he could walk across the street and stage a photo op at a church he doesn’t attend and hold up a Bible that he doesn’t read. The timid—you choose the adjective—timid, cowardly, spineless Republican colleagues in this Senate just remained silent. How offended they would have been if a Democratic President had had a photo op now or where he is supposed to serve, the photo op at a church, the holding up of the Bible he doesn’t read, the excuses, the divisiveness, all of that.

People are tired. People are angry. More Black sons and daughters and mothers and fathers killed by police officers—the very people who are supposed to protect all Americans; more death, when many are already grieving—so many in the Black community already grieving the loss of family members and friends for the coronavirus, grappling with the economic stress this pandemic has caused.

The pandemic has been the “great revealer.” We know Black and Brown communities have been hit hardest by the coronavirus. They are more likely to get sick. They have less access to healthcare. They make up the communities hurt by Jim Crow laws and red-lining and now the locking in of those racist policies by the Trump administration. Black and Brown communities disproportionately make up our essential workers. It is not because they don’t work as hard. It is not because of individual choices. We all work hard. We are all trying to do something productive for our families and our communities. We all want to build a better country for our daughters and our sons. No; it is because of a lack of belief that they are capable of working with their own hands, with their own brains, in the essential areas of the economy. And we see that with their pay rates, working and they don’t pay me very much. I feel expendable. I don’t feel safe at work, and they don’t pay me very much. I feel expendable.

Long before this pandemic, millions of Americans knew we had a system that treats them like they are expendable. Their hard work is not paying off. For some, it feels like the system is broken. For Black and Brown workers, it never worked to begin with. In the midst of the trauma and the grieving, millions of those same Americans—those who go to work day after day, week after week, in grocery stores, as delivery people, in drugstores, as bus drivers, and the people who do the linen and change the beds in hospitals, the food service workers, the janitors who are supposed to be the first responders. In the midst of the trauma and grieving, those same Americans—millions of them—still go to work day after day, week after week.

Our job is to show the victims of systemic racism at the hands of their own government that the United States can and will protect them from this pandemic. We hear them. We see them. We fight for them. Their lives matter.

Our response to this crisis must be to stand behind all the people who make this country work, all workers, whether you swipe a badge or punch a clock, whether you earn a salary or make tips, whether you are raising children or caring for an aging parent; all workers, whether your hard work isn’t paying in or whether it never paid off the way it should.

Dr. King said:

One day our society will come to respect the sanitation worker. For the person who picks up our garbage, in the final analysis, is as significant as the physician, for if he doesn’t do his job, diseases are rampant. All labor has dignity.

It is Black and Brown workers who have too often, far too long, far too often been robbed of their dignity on the job. If we want to be a country where all people have dignity, we need to start by recognizing that all labor has dignity. But so far, our response to the crisis is not the response of a government that believes that all labor has dignity. This President, this Senate, this President, this Senate, can only find trillions of dollars for corporations—for tax cuts, for bailouts. But when hard-working families need help with rent or put food on the table, President Trump and Leader McConnel said no, we will not aid it.

The President and the administration have already made racial and economic inequality worse and undone
civil rights protections. They have been pretty clear that they are willing to put American workers’ lives at risk—to reopen stockyards or just to juice the stock market.

President Trump and his administration believe that millions of Americans are expendable. It is not a coincidence that many of the people they consider expendable are Black and Brown workers.

Since the President is unwilling to protect people—whether that is protecting their lives or protecting their financial future—we in the Senate must fill the leadership void. As we do that, we work for change. We need to be clear that part of leading is listening.

The best ideas don’t come out of Washington—the solutions we need to fix the justice system, to address wealth inequality, to reverse disparities in health care, to help those who have been hurt by redlining and Jim Crow laws and so much more.

Whenever we talk about this, whenever people bring up the ways the system fails, we hear many Americans on the Senate floor express a protest march, there are always naysayers—almost always White, usually men, often pretty well-off—who say: How can you be so negative? Why do you want to dwell on all the worst parts of our history? Don’t you love our country?

My response to our country’s naysayers and sunshine patriots is this: How can you be so pessimistic as to believe that this is the best our country can do? Do you really think the American people, with our ingenuity and our optimism and tenacity—do you really think the American people can’t create a fair economy and a more just government? Do you truly believe we can’t have a world where women and men—no matter who you are, no matter what kind of work you do? Protesting, working for change, organizing, demanding our country do better is one of the most patriotic things any of us can do.

I love my country. If you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work, all of them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair would remind Senators that under rule XIX, it is provided that “no Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.”

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I want to respond to the accusations that were made. And I worded that carefully not to violate any rules. I am going to do that.

I see kind of an active desperation that is creeping in on statements and things that are said about other people. And right now, we are experiencing some things that actually are a success.

I want to respond to some of the accusations that were made. First, I have something else to do that is kind of an awkward thing to be doing at this time because I am going to go back to talk about something that happened not very long ago. In 1983, I think it is important that we do this. About every 10 years I do this. And we are going to be successful now because I have a commitment from the President that he is going to stay hitched on an issue—a huge issue in the past.

In 1983, not much was known about Iran’s efforts to train and arm the radical proxies and to kill Americans and to kill our partners and our allies. People knew that a few years earlier, Ayatollah Khamenei led a violent revolution in Iran. Khamenei’s regime introduced himself to the world by taking American diplomats hostage for 444 days—444 days. We all remember when that is something unprecedented. It was all tied into Khamenei. Of course, he used other people. Nothing has changed since that time.

Nonetheless, for the next decade, until his death in 1989, Khamenei was the ruthless face of an Iranian regime that applied a brutal version of religious law, murdered innocent people, suppressed religious and ethnic minorities, and supported radical Islamists. He hated Western values, and he hated the freedoms that we enjoy. Almost 4 years into his rule as Supreme Leader, October 23, 1983. 241 Americans, both U.S. marines and other service personnel serving in a peace mission in Beirut, were attacked at their barracks by a truck that was carrying 2,000 pounds of explosives by terrorists who were armed and trained by Iran. That was in 1983. Two hundred and forty-one died.

These terrorists became what we know as Hezbollah. That is the first time they surfaced and were identified as they are today, as an arm of Iran. Hezbollah struck.

In 2003, 20 years after the attack on our marines, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia ruled in a civil suit brought by the families of the victims—the 241 who were killed—that Iran had used Hezbollah as a proxy to bomb the Marine barracks in Beirut on that October day.

Not much has changed with Iran, unfortunately. It is the same way they act today. They don’t play by the rules. They never have. They are terrorists. They are worse than terrorists. They are the ones who are training the terrorists. That became even more apparent when we began to learn more about the ties to Islamic terrorist organizations and how they use proxy organizations, with no true allegiance but on behalf of a twisted interpretation of Islamic religious text, to murder and then sneak back into the shadows. That is the way they operate, and that is the way they operate today.

It happened under Ayatollah Khamenei, and it happens under the current Supreme Leader as well. Nothing has really changed. A lot of years have gone by. A lot of people have died. As I speak here on the floor, Iran is providing weapons and cover for the Houthi rebels, who are committing unconscionable atrocities in Yemen. Iran has continued to support terrorist groups that threaten our personnel in Iraq. It has repeatedly attacked our partners across the region. What is even worse is Iran seeks a nuclear weapon capability, and President Obama’s Iran deal would have, ultimately, let it have exactly what it wanted.

Fortunately, we now have a President who takes a strong stance against Iran with the imposing of sanctions and the pulling out of the flawed Iran nuclear deal that the previous administration put us in.

By the way, I had a joyful conversation for a half an hour yesterday with Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel. He was reminding me that I was in Petro’s office at the very moment that President Trump pulled out of the Iran deal, and I had never seen him so jubilant. We just talked about that yesterday.

Yes, back now to 1983, when 241 Americans were killed by an Iranian-backed suicide bomber. It was a terrible day in U.S. history, and, in 2003, a U.S. court ruled that Iran was responsible. That suit against Iran, brought by the victims’ families—the families of the 241 who died—provided punitive and compensatory relief in the form of Iranian assets. In 2007, the district court judge awarded just over $2.5 billion to the families of those murdered in that atrocity.

Our work isn’t done now. You would think that it would be, but it is not because there is nearly $1.7 billion in laundered Iranian assets in a Luxembourg bank named Clear Street, and we need to make sure that it stays there. You have this gnawing feeling that, once something is over in Luxembourg or someplace like that, all of a sudden, you wake up and find that Iran has $1.7 billion it is not entitled to in order to spread terrorism throughout the world.

In last year’s NDAA—now, the NDAA is the largest bill we do each year. I chair the defense authorization. It is called the National Defense Authorization Act. We pass it every year. We included language that made those assets available to the victims’ families, and the President signed it. I talked to the President, and he is anxious to do this. We have one obstacle that we have to get past, which is some activity by the second circuit where it is now being played out.

President Trump has been a firm leader against the aggressive Iran, and I certainly stand with him. That is why this is a clear opportunity to continue President Trump’s maximum pressure campaign against the current Iranian regime so as to ensure these assets do not return to Iran, where they would surely be used to help the proxy organization, such as Hezbollah.
I trust our Department of Justice with this, and I am glad we have a President who has made this a top priority—making sure the families of those 241 victims who were killed in Beirut receive this money as opposed to having the money go back.

Protesters

Mr. President, in responding to a couple of things that were said a few minutes ago, we all know this is a really trying time for our Nation. I begin with the obvious, which is what happened in Beirut. George Floyd was a crime. It was a horrible crime, and it has caused a groundswell of people joining together and standing against injustice and hate, not just for George Floyd but for so many others.

Protests are meaningful and positive events—standing up for dignity and respect for all people. Protesting is a cherished part of our democratic society that is enshrined in the First Amendment. The rights of peaceful protest should be supported and celebrated, period. We understand that. Yet those protests are not the same as the dangerous, destructive activity we have seen in many of our cities just in the last couple of days. Emotions are high, tensions are high, which is understandable. We need law and order if we are going to move forward, and I think every reasonable person agrees with that.

We are trying to have tough conversations about inequality, but we are facing a lot of misinformation, especially when it comes to our military. If we let this misinformation spread, it will just make things worse. All of the people out there—I am talking about the “hate Trump” people—are using this to try to lie to the American people. So I would like to correct the record, and I hope every American here understands and believes these words. This is very important. Here is what is happening.

Right now, the National Guard has not been federalized for response. Right now, Active-Duty troops have not been sent into any city, including DC. I was here last night. I was visibly looking around and making sure that this was not the case, and it was not. There were no Active-Duty troops in spite of things you have heard to the contrary.

Right now, local and State law enforcement are being supported by the National Guard only when they are requested by their States. The Department of Defense believes that, and by and large, they are doing a fine job. I agree with that. Our military is prepared to step in if the situation deteriorates dramatically and only if our President finds he has to step in. To be crystal clear, the President hasn’t done that yet.

I ask my fellow Americans to slow down and understand what will happen if and only if the President does so. It doesn’t mean that our streets will be immediately flooded with uniformed and armed troops. There is a process that has to be followed just as it was in 1992 with the LA riots, in 1998 after Hurricane Hugo, and at every other time before that.

First, this is the process. What has to happen is the President must issue a proclamation ordering any insurgents to disperse within a set period of time. Now, that is really important because that is the warning shot. He says this is going to happen, but only you can keep this from happening. The President has to issue the proclamation ordering any insurgents with him, of his commitment to our Nation, to the Constitution, and to the American people—of keeping them safe and giving his best military advice. It is striking below the belt to make these accusations and try to scare the American people. It is my duty as chairman of the Committee on Armed Services to have strong oversight over this issue. We have oversight over it. If what they are saying is true, we still have the oversight.

I assure you, right now, we are watching what our military is doing and what it has always done, which is its duty within the law and constitutional limits, and that is exactly what General Milley has done and is doing right now. We are seeing a lot of finger-pointing and blame going around. We owe it to ourselves and our neighbors to believe the very best in each other, not assume the worse. We need to recognize everyone’s inherent value and treat each other with respect and dignity as Christ calls us to do. Only then can we listen with both of our ears and with our hearts. That is what I am asking the American people to do.

Many of those in the protests are in a group that has been referred to as antifa. Certainly, George Floyd’s death was a tragedy and went beyond unimaginable dimensions, but did any of them know who he was? I suggest, no, they really didn’t. So I would only say this: I think, in answer to the accusations that were made, that I would quote only one or two sentences out of a speech that our President made 2 days ago in the Rose Garden. This is not partisan support and margins.

Mr. President, I would like to say a little something about simple military relations. This is something I care a lot about as chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services. In particular, I want to speak about General Milley.

General Milley is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this job, General Milley is the President’s top military adviser. Don’t forget he doesn’t have any command authority over the military forces. This is important. This is not what you hear people talking about when they misrepresent the situation. This is very important. He is there as the adviser to the President of the United States, and he doesn’t have any authority over the military forces. There has been a lot of criticism about his wearing his battle dress uniform—his BDU, as they call it—on Monday when the President spoke. Here is another area in which I want to set the record straight.

General Milley was getting ready to visit with troops around DC—I know that. I was talking to him that day—who were also in their BDUs. That was the dress uniform for their function at that time. He was called to the White House. We all know why he was called to the White House. He is the adviser to the President. I think everyone can agree that we want that voice at the table in situations like this to provide the best military advice, as is his statutory authority and responsibility.

On Monday, after General Milley walked outside with the President, he assessed the situation and immediately removed himself. Now, this isn’t just me talking. I know that he did because I was with him shortly before that and also after that. So that was a fact. He also told me that he intended to honor his oath and uphold the delicate balance between civilians and the military. I fully believe him. He has always done that in the past and always will do that.

The accusations against General Milley are especially troubling to me because I know, work with, and believe in him, of his commitment to our Nation, to the Constitution, and to the American people—of keeping them safe and giving his best military advice. It is striking below the belt to make these accusations and try to scare the American people. It is my duty as chairman of the Committee on Armed Services to have strong oversight over this issue. We have oversight over it. If what they are saying is true, we still have the oversight.

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in Minnesota. I will tell you that this event of May 25 cannot be written off as a simple use of force or as being unfortunate or regrettable. We all know that, on that day, George Floyd was killed by a police officer while other officers looked on and heard his begging for life and his cries for help. The officers responsible should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

I offer my prayers and condolences to the Floyd family. I am just as sickened by what many other Members of this Chamber have done, and I support the President’s call for the Justice Department to investigate this death.

CENSORSHIP

Mr. President, our country was built on the premise of dissent, and we have seen the power that peaceful protests have in their ability to bring change to every level of government. Unfortunately, over the past week, we have also seen that our freedoms and shadowy policies exploit these public expressions of frustration and pain.

Every single day, Americans are wakening to the facts that their neighborhoods have been destroyed, and they watch news reports that are dominated by lawlessness. Many activists and members of the mainstream media have attempted to force us into choosing between solidarity and maintaining law and order. This is a false choice. It is one that we ought to reject. Instead, we should fight for accountability, compassion, and understanding. At the same time, we must condemn racism, hatred, and the violence that has torn apart so many neighborhoods this very week.

We should also celebrate and defend our right to peaceful disagreement in the streets, in the classroom, and online. Unfortunately, too often, this right is not celebrated. Over the years, we have documented Big Tech’s history of censorship, particularly the censorship of dissenting conservative voices. During the election cycle, a series of pro-life ads that I sponsored on social media were taken down for having content the platform labeled as “inflammatory.”

For years, conservatives have been fighting a losing war against content moderation policies that act as a dragnet for dissenting opinions. Last week, Twitter rolled out a new “fact-checking” feature and almost immediately botched a fact check on one of President Trump’s tweets. Unfortunately, for Twitter, the President was not afraid to point out how easy it is for private companies to make mistakes that turn moderation into speech policing. Social media companies have subjectively manipulated their algorithms to capture conservative opinions and conservative elected officials. They have been doing this for too long for it to just be a mere mistake. These are not unintended consequences.

Last week, President Trump signed an Executive order to bring some much needed attention to the issue, and we thank him for that. As head of the Judicial Committee’s Tech Task Force, I look forward to working with the White House and the Justice Department to preserve free speech online for all Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

PROTESTS

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those Presidents, Republican and Dem-ocrat alike—President Trump, instead of being consoler in chief, shows that he knows only how to be instigator in chief. He has revealed himself really to be a President of his country in name only. I never imagined I would say that of any President, let alone of a President of the party, certainly not of all the prece-
sors I have had the honor to know.

So we must instead look to ourselves and each other. How do we heal our country? At the local, State, and na-
tional levels, we must carry on the cause of criminal justice and police re-
form. We must push for systematic law enforcement reform. We must elect leaders who will prioritize racial jus-
tice and work tirelessly to achieve some measure of that. We must work to build bridges in communities so that we better empathize with the struggles faced by those who have been marginalized for decades on end.

On Monday, Terrence Floyd, George’s brother, stood on the spot where his brother died. He made an emotional appeal to the hundreds of people watch-
ing and to the Nation. He pled for the protests to remain peaceful. He pled for those who believe they are marginalized and disenfran-
chised not to give up hope, that their voice mat-
ters, and he pled for justice.

His brother died because he needed a breath. His family now asks to take a breath for justice, a breath for peace, a breath for our country, and a breath for George. We should honor his mem-
ory by heeding their anguished advice.

There is so much to do. Congress must get to work. During my years in the Senate, I have seen America in cri-
sis. But every time, without exception, I have seen America emerge a more just and stronger nation. The crises America faces today feel over-
whelming, historic—some would say existential. But if we stay true to the values that define our Republic—equal-
ity, justice, the rule of law—I am hope-
ful we will make it through as a slight-
ly more perfect union.

I weep for our country; I pray for our country; and I look for better days.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-
ator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL PACK

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, this week our majority leader is asking the Senate to vote on the nomination of Michael Pack to serve as Chief Exec-
utive of the U.S. Agency for Global Media.

Mr. Pack’s nomination should trouble all of us in this Chamber. It raises the question of whether the U.S. Sen-
ate has the authority to be the check and balance on the qualifications of those potentially vested with substan-
tial responsibility into positions in our executive branch.

His nomination draws into question the very values we have, the responsi-
bility we have to ensure that only indi-
viduals of talent, experience, and in-
tegrity serve America in the executive branch. Hamilton commented on this in the Federalist Papers. He said:

To what purpose then require the co-oper-
ation of the Senate? I answer, that the ne-
necessity of [the Senate’s] concurrence would have a powerful influence on its op-
eration. It would be an excellent check upon the spirit of favoritism in the President, and tend greatly to prevent the appointment of unfit characters.

Those words should resonate in this Chamber now. The individual who will come before us, Michael Pack, set up a nonprofit called Public Media Lab, or PML, apparently for the sole purpose to channel his for-profit operation known as Manifold Productions. Over a period exceeding a decade, he channeled $4 million from the nonprofit to the for-profit. Not a single contract went anywhere else—no other con-
tracts.

Utilizing a nonprofit to launder for-
profit contracts, in the process of which providing tax subsidies to your customers and advantage over your competitors, raises both ethical and legal issues. The moral issues, including potential criminal conduct, have not been resolved. Mr. Pack is, at this mo-
ment, under investigation by the attor-
general of the District of Colum-
bia.

Mr. Pack, in tax filings to the IRS in 2011 through 2018, did not accurately disclose a relationship between his nonprofit and his for-profit. When he was asked if, in fact, there were com-
mons officers between the two, he an-
swered no when the answer was clearly yes. He did not disclose that his for-
profit benefited from the setup of the nonprofit.

Mr. Pack did admit to the Committee on Foreign Relations that he made oversights; that is the term he used—“oversights.” But he has refused to correct his tax filings.

Mr. Pack, when he was renominated in 2020, inaccurately stated in the documents he submitted to the committee that his tax returns were complete and accurate. He has refused to provide critical docu-
ments to the committee and, in that sense, to the Senate to examine these significant issues. He has refused to provide the agreements between PML and Manifold, his nonprofit and his for-
profit, to examine the propriety of the relationship. He has said simply that those documents are confidential and proprietary.

But we should realize that serving in the executive branch is a privilege. We asked for information so that we can exercise our constititutional responsibility. When an individual confronted with substantial ethical and legal issues simply says “I will not provide them” and if the Senate committee says “That is OK,” then we are falling in our constitutional responsibility to examine the qualifications of the indi-
vidual. This is no light responsibility we bear in this Chamber. This is a very signifi-
cant one of the gereations of the U.S. Constitution, which each and every one of us swore to uphold when we took our oath of office.

Mr. Pack, when he was president of the Claremont Institute, directed sig-
ificant funds to his for-profit company for fundraising. His company is not a fundraising company; his com-
pany is a film company. So we have asked him to provide the details and PML. We need to be able to see if there was an inappropriate transfer of funds from a position of responsi-
ability to the personal profit of Michael Pack. But Mr. Pack has refused to pro-
vide details. He has refused to provide documents related to this.

In addition, he prematurely resigned from his role at the Claremont Institu-
tute, and it is shrouded in mystery. We do not know if the board found ethical issues. We do not know if they found criminal conduct because he has not responded to our request for documents related to his premature resignation.

Given the gravity of these issues, it makes sense, when he was renomi-
nated, that he would reappear before the committee to address these concerns and these issues. Well, we have not had such a hearing.

To summarize, when an individual makes false statements to the IRS and refuses to correct them, when they make false statements related to the committee, not in the first time before the committee but the second time before the committee, when they refuse to provide relevant documents to provide significant issues of ethical conduct or potential criminal conduct, then is an active investigation into that po-
tentially criminal conduct, then we should simply say to the President: Send us a different name.

This man may be qualified, but he does not wish to provide the infor-
mation necessary for the Senate to do its responsibility as a check and bal-
ance on potentially unfit individuals. To exercise advice and consent in ac-
cordance with responsibilities charged to us, we must hold the standards for records and documents and truthfulness to the committee. We must insist that outstanding investiga-
tions be completed when they involve potentially criminal conduct. We must insist that verifiably false statements be corrected. These are not high or ex-
ceptional standards; these are funda-
mental, basic, elementary responsi-
bilities that we carry.

That is why I have written a resolu-
tion declaring that the Senate should not vote on a nominee who has made verifiably false statements to Congress or the executive branch and who re-
fuses to correct those statements. Until those statements to both the Foreign Relations Committee and to the IRS are corrected, Michael Pack’s nomination should be set aside. We should simply tell the President and exercise our responsibility, for which we have taken an oath of office, to send us someone else. This individual is not qualified for this job. We must ask the Senate to do its responsibility necessary for the Senate to proceed with his nomination. That is what we should be saying, and we should still be
saying it at this late date. I urge my colleagues to do the right thing by supporting this resolution.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 604

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 604, in which I was submitted earlier today. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action by the Senate. I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Pack's nomination is that this nomination hasn't been adequately vetted, this nomination was made 2 years ago tomorrow, June 4, 2018.

Mr. Pack came before the committee. He has been before the committee twice, and we spent numerous hours on deliberations due to the complaints of the Democrats on the committee. He has been looked at by the White House. His business dealings have been looked at by the Justice Department, by the Internal Revenue Service, and he has been cleared of anything.

The U.S. Agency for Global Media is an important agency because it is charged with supporting international broadcasting outlets around the world in the face of the kinds of misinformation and things that are put out by other countries that are untrue.

The real reason for the objection to Mr. Pack's nomination is that this man is a patriot. This is a man who makes documentaries films that portray the greatness of America. Anyone who disagrees with that ought to spend the time to look at the documentary he just made, which was run on public TV within the last 30 days, regarding Clarence Thomas and what he had to go through to get on the Supreme Court. It was a superb representation of what happened in that. If you watch that, you will see why the Democrats are absolutely opposed to Mr. Pack.

But don’t take our word for this. RealClearPolitics after this whole thing started, did its own investigation into this, and they noted that the business arrangements of Mr. Pack used to make these documentaries are very common for documentary filmmakers and, like Pack, filmmakers and television producers also use nonprofits to collect contributions from donors and then set up a for-profit company to make these films. This is exactly what Senator Murphy was objecting to.

Having said that, they went on to interview others, including attorneys and everything else. Another producer with no business ties to Pack told RealClearPolitics “that he set up the same two-pronged way of funding films last year on the advice of counsel, who told him it was standard operating procedure.”

This has been looked at. It has been reviewed. Look, the committee has had this in its hands for almost 2 years. I have been really patient. Every time that I set this for a hearing and they wanted more time. I let that go.

Finally, the last time it was really, really disappointed in the Democrats' engagement of the political system, enlisting it with the potential criminal justice system, to try to stop this.

The night before the business meeting, I got a letter from the attorney general for the District of Columbia—obviously a partisan individual—that says that he is going to look at this and, therefore, he is investigating it. That he was going so. Well, we can’t go ahead with this because he is being investigated by this partisan person from DC.

Look, I am on the Ethics Committee. There are similar issues situs Foreign Relations Committee. In every instance I can think of on the Ethics Committee where the U.S. Justice Department has asked us to stand down because they were doing a legitimate criminal investigation, we have done so.

In this particular case, it was a partisan agency of the District of Columbia that noticed that they were going to do this investigation. I started my career as a prosecutor. I have always felt that the justice system and the prosecuting system should be above politics, but to get a partisan individual to send a letter—after 2 years—on the eve of the business meeting, that he was going to open a business meeting again, after many delays, was just too much.

But I did delay the business meeting for 1 week, and after that 1 week we had a business meeting. The Democrats made motion after motion to delay. Again, I was as patient as I could be. I said during these motions that we were only going to go on so long with this. Finally, as was noted by some of the attorneys in the room, had this occurrence happened in a court of law, the attorneys would have been held in contempt of court for making repetitive motions that were obviously delay motions and done spuriously.

So, after much motion, I declared the motions out of order, and we went to what democracies do. We went to a vote. To no one’s surprise, it was a straight party-line vote: 12 votes to send Mr. Pack’s confirmation to the floor. 49 confirmation and 10 votes against that.

This is a democracy. The way we do this is we have disagreements, particularly when it comes to political matters such as this, but to try to engage the justice system, I find just really, truly disheartening.

We are going to have a vote on Mr. Pack, and it is very simple. If you don’t want Mr. Pack to take this job, then you vote no, and if you do, then you say yes. But this has been investigated back and forth. Regardless of the breast-beating and the rending of garments over what an awful person he is and how awful his businesses have been, and how awful his politics. If you see the kind of work that he has done, he makes America proud when he makes a documentary.

So I would object to the resolution that has been proposed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask to speak for up to 6 minutes before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I want to, first of all, thank Senator McConnell for his resolution and for his thoughtful and substantive contributions as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and to express our deep disappointment that our Republican colleagues are blocking his resolution, because we feel that we should not move forward on a nominee—in this case, this nominee—when there are false statements to the IRS and to the Foreign Relations Committee for which he refuses to correct the record, which would have consequences. Those are indisputable.

It is abundantly clear that we need to formalize some standards that apply equally to all nominees, Democrat and Republican alike, and we should think of it as a floor beneath which the Senate should not fall.

Now, it is amazing to me that I know my Republican colleagues used to care about tax issues. As a matter of fact, they denied a previous distinguished majority leader of the Senate—of some arcane issue—the opportunity to become the Secretary of Health and Human Services. They have done it a bunch of times.

This issue is a $4 million tax issue in which Mr. Pack took his nonprofit, totally controlled by him—totally controlled by him—and had all the moneys that were solicited to the nonprofit then sent to his for-profit company, totally controlled by him—totally controlled by him. And those moneys were made from the nonprofit for anyone else, for any other entity.

I didn’t hear until now that the Justice Department and the IRS has reviewed this. It should be forthcoming, then, that they have cleared this, that this is now in the course of business. We can create a nonprofit; go ahead and get moneys from people; they will get their deductions; and then we can send it to ourselves for profit. That is one heck of a process.

Now, the chairman continues to say “2 years.” Well, 2 years ago there was a Republican chairman of the committee—our colleague Bob Corker. He
did not move this nomination 2 years ago. So with this constant refrain of 2 years, I guess you want to blame former Senator Corker for not moving it during that period of time.

At the chairman’s request, I met with Mr. Pack. He may not have been my nominee, I agreed to have a hearing, which is one of the standards we have in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. There is an agreement between the chair and ranking. That has been violated for Mr. Pack. He actually went to a vote before the committee without my agreement, so that comity has been violated for the future.

At the end of the day, we have someone who will not ultimately—he says: Yes, I made a ‘mistake’—it is a $4 million mistake—and, yes, I should have answered differently.

Well, why not correct it? If it is so simple, if it is so benign, why not correct it? The reason you don’t want to correct it is that there are consequences that flow from that correction, including probably an IRS investigation.

Finally, it is interesting that, I guess, when Attorney General Barr does something, it is not political, but when the attorney general of the District of Columbia does it, it is political. I didn’t know we were going to start choosing and picking which law enforcement entities are political in this country.

The attorney general of the District of Columbia had an investigation that was preceding before any action of the committee—preceding before any action of the committee or any information brought to the attention of the attorney general. Evidently, he considers it significantly serious enough—potential IRS violations on taxes.

So here are our Republican colleagues, viruses pasted in the past, railing against anyone who had violations of the IRS Tax Code, saying they are not worthy of being a nominee, to going ahead and ramming through someone who ultimately has some serious issues to the tune of $4 million, and that is not a problem. Under investigation—that is not a problem.

So I urge my colleagues to consider what you are doing here. Not only was a precedent set at the committee, but you will set a precedent on the floor, and it will be very hard for you to get up and rail about somebody’s tax liabilities and what they did and didn’t do honestly with the taxes at the end of the day.

With that, I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of James H. Anderson, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on the nomination of James H. Anderson, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 74, nays 18, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 108 Ex.]

YEAS—74

Alexander  Perdue
Barrasso  Portman
Benning  Reed
Blackburn  Risch
Blunt  Roberts
Bunten  Rubio
Burr  Rosen
Capito  Rubio
Casey  Saage
Cassidy  Shaheen
Collins  Sinkema
Coons  Stabenow
Cornyn  Stith
Coryn Masto  Sullivan
Cotton  Thune
Crapo  Toomey
Cruz  Tonoey
Daines  Udall
Durbin  Van Hollen
Ezzi  Warren
Ernst  Wyden

NAYS—18

Baldwin  Murray
Blumenthal  Schumer
Booker  Sasse
Cantwell  Scott (IA)
Cardin  Scott (NC)
Gillibrand  Sasse

NOT VOTING—8

Cramer  Rounds
Enyeaver  Smith
Markley  Tester

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 74, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Illinois.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, I came to the floor of the Senate to ask for consent on the simple, timely Senate resolution sponsored by nearly half of the Members of this Chamber. What did the resolution call for? Well, it urged the United States to join global coronavirus vaccine and treatment efforts. That doesn’t sound like a radical idea, does it? In the midst of a global pandemic that is causing so much suffering and so many deaths, it would seem that the United States would want to join other countries of the world in searching for therapies and vaccines is just common sense.

We don’t know where or when a vaccine will be discovered. We don’t know if an effective treatment will be discovered in the United States or in some other place. Certainly, with the respected medical and scientific leadership in the United States, you would hope that it would be here, but let’s be honest. If a safe and effective vaccine is developed in the coronavirus efforts in some other country, the United States would want to be there and be part of the discussion about its production and distribution. Wouldn’t we? That is all this resolution says.

Why not team up with allies around the world since we are all looking for the same thing—a safe and effective vaccine. Whether that vaccine is stamped “Made in the USA” or is made in some other country is secondary. Is it safe? Is it effective? Will it save lives? Do we really want the American people to be left out of such an effort? It was a global effort to eliminate smallpox. Ebola, polio, and so many other deadly diseases we took for granted. We were all in it together.

The simple truth is we don’t know any boundaries. People around the world have the same fears and concerns that we have in the United States about what we are paying in price of suffering and death until we find a way to avoid the same. This resolution would just call on the United States to be part of a global effort to find a therapy and a vaccine, but this resolution was blocked here in the Senate. Since then, since the 2 weeks that have passed, we have lost over 100,000 American lives. Sadly, this number is still growing. This has been 100,000 lives in just a few months—the same number of American casualties in the wars of Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined.

What was President Trump’s response? Was there empathy or a message of national unity or healing during this tragic moment? No. Once again, President Trump refused to take any responsibility for leadership during this crisis. Sadly, he has come to view even his own responsibilities as part of the global pandemic that has had devastating consequences for the American people.
June 3, 2020
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
S2671

Sadly, we lead the world in infections and death, but President Trump has decided that now is the moment in history for the United States to pull out of the World Health Organization—the same body that is heading the global pandemic response. What is he thinking—removing the armchair critic who is better informed than he is about the organization that has called to the United States to join in the global effort to find a safe and effective vaccine? Here we are, on the fortieth anniversary of the World Health Organization—a simple resolution that is being discharged from further consideration. This resolution calls on the U.S. Senate to join in the collaborative effort to develop a vaccine. So do not only waste time but risks there being a loss of life. This resolution is urgently needed to encourage the international community to remain committed to collaboration and coordination to mitigate and prevent the further spread of COVID-19 and urgent renewed United States leadership and participation in any global efforts on therapeutics and vaccine development and delivery to address COVID-19 and prevent further deaths; that the Senate be discharged from its immediate consideration; that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I urge the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 579, a resolution encouraging the international community to remain committed to collaboration and coordination to mitigate and prevent the further spread of COVID-19 and urgent renewed United States leadership and participation in any global efforts on therapeutics and vaccine development and delivery to address COVID-19 and prevent further deaths; that the Senate be discharged from its immediate consideration; that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). Is there objection?
The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

First of all, let me commend my good friend from Illinois for bringing this. I know he is frustrated, as all of us are, with what has happened with this pandemic that came out of China and swept the world and caused all the grief that it has for America and for every other country on the planet.

It is important to note, I think, as we start, that the United States has been the single most generous donor of global health to the world. We do hear people, from time to time, criticize the foreign assistance that America gives out. Probably the pandemic that we have just gone through, with this COVID-19 from China, is the best indication that there is for why certain foreign assistance is so crucial. This foreign assistance we give in the healthcare area is given, amongst other reasons, to keep those things from spreading to the United States.

Last year alone, we, the United States, spent in global health efforts. That $9 billion does not account for the amount that was promised, at that time, that the For- eign Relations Committee was going to proceed to put into the bill. Just as with the smallpox effort, a global, collaborative approach makes obvious sense, and it will save American lives. Joining forces with other countries around the world will help to speed the development and eventual distribution of the coronavirus vaccine we desperately seek.

Do you want to know what one Republican Senator from Tennessee said about this? He said: "I disagree with the President." He has been one of the more vocal supporters of the President.

Withdrawing U.S. membership from the WHO could, among other things, interfere with clinical trials that are essential to the development of a vaccine. No one knows where this vaccine will eventually be perfected or produced. God willing, it will be soon. Yet why shouldn't we be joining in this global effort? Why? Why, at this moment in history, has President Trump said we are stepping away from the organization that leads this effort? This President—safely, I hate to use the word—"obsession" with blaming everyone but himself for mishandling this situation, maybe his dereliction of duty should come as no surprise, but what a bitter, bitter disappointment it is.

I return to the floor to ask unanimous consent on a straightforward resolution—a simple resolution that should have passed without any fanfare by a vote unanimously in the Senate. This resolution calls on the United States to join in the global effort to find a safe and effective vaccine—something that we have done consistently throughout our history until this President took office.

Ultimately, let's remember that this is a pandemic that affects the world, and any solution has to be a worldwide solution as well. We cannot isolate ourselves to local internationals ways of finding treatments and the development of a vaccine. Doing so not only wastes time but risks there being a loss of life.

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First of all, during the 2 weeks—we obviously were gone for 1 week—but let me tell you what was going on during that week and the subsequent week. I promised, at that time, that the Foreign Relations Committee was going to take this issue on because it is of such importance that we don't go through this again, and there is a lot more that we can do than simply pass a resolution.

It is my ambition to create a very significant piece of legislation that will be bipartisan, that creates a vehicle to address a fast-moving virus like this. We can all argue about the WHO and what they did or didn't do, their connections to China and that sort of thing, but that is not going to help us as we go forward. What we do know is that WHO has done good work in the past. They were a really good partner with us, as the Senator knows, when it came to implementing PEPFAR and a collaborative effort to fight against AIDS. They were very helpful with Ebola and very helpful with smallpox, but this was a different virus. This was
a house on fire. WHO is simply not, at this time, geared to be a fireman. When the fire bell rings, we need a vehicle to address a virus.

This is going to happen again because in the Wuhan district, there is a vast body of water. If they are carrying about 2,000 different species of viruses. Unfortunately, and frighteningly, we don’t know what all those viruses can do. Heaven help us if we get one out of there that is worse than COVID-19 that we have had, but we need a fire department that can address this.

I hope we are going to be able to engage China. If not, we are going to have to find ways of dealing with this. Where is that vehicle going to be carried? Is it going to be a new part of WHO? Is it going to be part of the CDC? Is it going to be a new international organization? I can’t answer that, but I can tell you this. On a bipartisan basis, Senator MURPHY, who is also on the Foreign Relations Committee, and I have introduced a bill to address a number of these things, including the vaccine question and including working on getting a vehicle to do what I have described.

I think everyone is working on this in good faith. The bill that will be introduced is written on paper. It is not written on stone. We are wide open to suggestions as to what kind of a vehicle it is that will address this like firemen and not in a slower fashion like other things have happened.

Senator MURPHY and I have had a number of discussions on this. We are both committed to reach the goals that I know Senator DURBIN and that I think this whole body wants to reach. We are going to hold a series of hearings as to how to do this, how best to do it, how it should be funded, how it should be organized, and how the management should take place. What it is not going to focus on is the fingerpointing. That happened and the fingerpointing happened after COVID escaped from a bat into a human being in Wuhan, China, and what happened after it left Wuhan, China, and went around the world. We have really good information on that already.

There is going to be a lot of other investigations and hearings and that sort of thing. We want to talk about, what do we do when this happens in the future? How can we create an agency that just like the fire department, when there is a fire, they pull the boots on; they slide down the pole; they get on the truck; and they go put out the fire.

I guarantee Senator DURBIN that we will continue to work on this. My staff tells me—and I am glad to hear that Mr. DURBIN’s staff is working with them on the language on this particular resolution, and I thank the Senator for that and I invite him and commit to him that we will work with him as we develop its new legislation and as we go through the hearings.

So, again, please don’t take this as combative. It is not. It is the best spirit, to help us all move forward to get to a piece of very significant legislation that will hopefully take us forward like PEPFAR did and as some of the other monumental pieces of legislation did that can address this incredibly difficult situation and hurtful not only for America but for the world.

And I state to the Senator that I invite your participation, encourage your participation, and assure you that we will work in good faith to try to reach these goals.

With that, I object for the reasons stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have respect for my colleague and thank him for his positive statement about the work to be done in the Foreign Relations Committee. There is nothing in this resolution that tries to impact on anything he mentioned. The operative language is a few words, “urging renewed United States leadership and participation in any global efforts on therapeutics and vaccine development and delivery to address COVID–19 and prevent further death.”

How do we do that, whether we create an agency or not, this is simply an expression of policy that I hope we can embrace. I will be back if we don’t move forward with alternatives. Lives are at stake, and we should be part of the international conversation to avoid it.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, would the Senator yield for a few moments?

Mr. DURBIN. Certainly.

Mr. RISCH. Thank you. I appreciate these comments. There is nothing that the Senator just stated that I disagree with. One point, in passing, and I say this in the spirit of trying to get to the objective that I laid out, and that is, it happened; it happened after COVID escaped from a bat into a human being in Wuhan, China, and what happened after it left Wuhan, China, and went around the world. We have really good information on that already.

As Mr. DURBIN has pointed out, and rightfully so, this virus doesn’t care whether you are a Republican or Democrat; it doesn’t care whether you are an American or not an American. It doesn’t care if you are a President of the United States or, in the case of some countries around the world, a member of the highest authority there is in that country. The virus just doesn’t care.

In order for us to accomplish this, it is going to be a bill—it is not going to be a resolution—and it has to be approved by the second branch of government. They fully understand what we are trying to do here. They have committed their resources and their input to this, and I am convinced they are working in good faith, just as everyone here is, to try to reach these goals of doing something better in the future than what we have experienced just recently.

Senator, again, thank you for your attention to this. Thank you for your input, and I commend to you that we will work together on this as we go forward.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

PROTESTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Monday, President Trump stood in the Rose Garden and called for the use of military force against individuals who have been gathering across the country protesting racism and police brutality against Black Americans. This historic call for empowering the Commander in Chief to militarize law enforcement in our country is an watershed moment in our nation’s struggle for civil rights.

President Trump said nothing to address the anguish felt by many in this country, particularly people of color, and instead called on Governors to ‘dominate the streets,’ as though the Americans, who peacefully exercise their right to protest, are an enemy force.

Initially, Defense Secretary Esper went even further when he referred to cities as a “battlespace.” I am heartened by the fact that he has made it clear that he does not support the President’s suggestion of militarizing the police forces and police across America. These calls by the President to militarize cities across America ignore that for far too long he urged law enforcement to “dominate,” as the President often says, rather than to protect and serve, which is exactly what is contributing to the challenge we face today.

The other night, minutes before Mayor Bowser’s 7 p.m. curfew came into effect, the President used law enforcement personnel to use tear gas and rubber bullets on peaceful demonstrators in Lafayette Square across the street from the White House. They even beat these peaceful demonstrators with batons and shields. There are conflicting reports as to whether the National Guard participated in the violence. I have made a direct inquiry to the Department of Defense, and they have denied it.

According to press reports, the assault began with law enforcement kneeling, not to express any solidarity
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about 400 people on a typical weekend. But it has been closed since mid-March due to the broad shutdown restrictions in place to combat the novel coronavirus.

Damage to the building from Sunday night’s fire and vandalism will cost at least $20,000, Fisher said. But he said the destruction should not become the focus of what has been happening in the streets outside the White House.

Fisher said that when people have talked about their burns, he has tried to redirect them, saying it was likely one person who does not represent the majority of people protesting.

“Those should be propositions that bring all of us together. Watching the death of Mr. Floyd, for so many Americans, brought forth the long history in this country of racial discrimination, a history that began with centuries of slavery in America, a history that has seen Jim Crow and the Ku Klux Klan, that has seen overt and also implicit discrimination.

Young African Americans too often fear interactions with law enforcement, fear that their rights will not be protected. Our Nation’s journey toward civil rights has had many troubled stops along the way, but I, for one, agree with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that the arc of history bends toward justice. I also agree with the vision that Dr. King put forth standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, to an assembled crowd and an assembled protest, that he wanted to live in a nation where we would be judged—all of us would be judged not by the color of our skin but by the content of our character.

That is a vision that has animated America on our journey toward justice, and outrage at what happened to George Floyd. Americans across this country to speak out, to exercise their First Amendment right to speak out for racial justice, to speak out against police brutality, to speak out against abuse of power. All of that is legitimate. All of that is protected by the Constitution.

But then we saw things take an ominous turn, a dangerous turn. What, for some, was legitimate First Amendment speech, speaking out for justice, became co-opted, became taken over by violent criminal radicals.

Now, let’s be clear because so much of the news media does not like clarity in this regard. When I say that, I am not saying that speaking is a violent criminal radical. Indeed, there are a great many people speaking out whose heart cries for justice, cries for the justice that has been the many centuries-long journey of this country. But there are radicals who cynically took advantage of these protests to sow division, to sow fear, to engage in murder, to engage in violent assaults, to engage in looting, to engage in theft, to engage in intimidation, to engage in fear.

The First Amendment protects your right to speak; the First Amendment protects your right to peaceably protest; but none of us has a right to violent conduct. None of us has a right to murder another person. None of us has a right to burn the cars of police officers, to shatter the shop windows of shops throughout this country, to engage in acts of terror, threatening the lives of our fellow Americans.

To those radicals who cynically tried to co-opt these protests, I will say their actions were profoundly racist because they were making a decision to take what should have been a unifying moment to say this will not stand in our Nation. Our law protects everyone, regardless of the color of their skin. Every American—African American, Asian American, Hispanic, White American—it doesn’t matter; our laws protect everyone. That should have been a unifying moment, and the cynical, violent, radical criminals decided to co-opt these protests to turn them into, in far too many instances, riots—riots, terrorizing their fellow citizens.

George Floyd was a native Houstonian—my hometown. I love the city of Houston. George Floyd was active in his church in Houston. Next week, Mr. Floyd will be coming back to Houston for the last time to be buried in Houston. I am proud that last night, in the city of Houston, thousands came out to protest, and there wasn’t violence last night; that the police of Houston demonstrated that you can speak, you can speak for racial justice, you can speak out against brutality without engaging in violence.

But there has been too much violence across the country and, sadly, too many politicians who are complicit in violence, who have made the political judgment to turn a blind eye to rioters, to thugs, to murderers, to those terrorizing communities.

The riots must stop. The violence must stop. The first responsibility of government is to keep people safe. Right now, in too many of our cities, government is failing in that task.

Across the country, we see the lives which have been taken. To date, 6 U.S. States and 13 U.S. cities have declared a state of emergency because of the riots they are facing. Chicago police superintendent David Brown said that over the weekend, 132 police officers were injured, there were 48 shootings, and 15 arrests.

In Las Vegas on Monday night, rioters shot a police officer who is right now on life support. Over the past 3 days, Las Vegas police officers have arrested 338 rioters.

In St. Louis, four police officers were shot on Monday night. Fortunately, their wounds appear not to be life threatening, but a beloved retired police captain, David Dorn, was shot and killed by looters at a pawn shop that same night.

Mr. Dorn joined the St. Louis police force in 1969. He was a dedicated law enforcement officer for nearly 40 years. His wife and the St. Louis community are grieving his loss. Mr. Dorn was also African American.

The phrase “Black lives matter” has become fraught with politics. It is absolutely true that Black lives matter. We should be horrified at what happened to George Floyd, but we should also be horrified at what happened to David Dorn. To those with political agendas seeking demagogues that tear this country apart, somehow David Dorn—another Black man, a different
Black man—who doesn’t fit the political story they are trying to tell, disappears from their narrative.

It has become politically controversial to make a statement that every life matters. How far have we gone? Our elected leaders should be held accountable to that proposition. The Declaration of Independence tells us these truths to be self-evident that all men—not some men, not just White men or White women, but all men—of every race, of every creed, of every religion—are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that, among them, are the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Now, our country has not always delivered on that promise for every American, but that is the journey we have traveled toward that vision.

David Dorn’s life matters. For every reporter fanning up division who doesn’t stop to honor David Dorn, shame on you. His life mattered, and he doesn’t need to be murdered by violent looters exploiting the tensions and division.

In protests Monday night in Buffalo, NY, three police officers were run over by a car, breaking a leg and shattering the pelvis of one of the officers.

In San Francisco over the weekend, at least 20 fires were set, 33 people were arrested for looting, and 2 police officers were attacked.

On Friday night, David Patrick Underwood, an officer in the Department of Homeland Security, was shot and killed during protests in Oakland, CA.

David Patrick Underwood, like David Dorn, was African American. George Floyd was 46. So does David Dorn’s. So does David Patrick Underwood’s. No elected leader should sit idly by while David Patrick Underwood or David Dorn or George Floyd is murdered. If Black lives matter, then all Black lives matter, not just those which are politically convenient for politicians.

It has been reported that at least 25 cities in the United States have seen deadly, destructive riots in the last week. According to the Claims Journal, which reports and analyzes the property claims industry, 75 businesses in Madison, WI, have been looted; 50 businesses in Seattle; 50 businesses in Pittsburgh; and 45 properties in Chicago have suffered damages. In New York City, iconic stores up and down Broadway and Fifth Avenue have been vandalized and looted.

In Atlanta, everything from big-box stores like Home Depot to clothing stores have been destroyed, looted, and damaged. In Atlanta, a Black-owned small business, a clothing store, was completely looted in the wee hours of a Saturday morning. To store owner Kris Shelby, the loss was devastating.

Tiwana Jackson, owner of the Philadelphia Runner, told the Philadelphia Enquirer: "What is left is mush" after rioters attempted to light fires in his store, stole clothes, stole shoes, smashed the windows, and left the store flooding from the sprinklers.

In Los Angeles, the rioting and looting has brought back painful memories of the 1992 Rodney King riots that resulted in 51 in-store injuries by rocks and bricks. Ross Martinson, the owner of a small business called the Philadelphia Runner, told the Philadelphia Enquirer: "What is left is mush" after rioters attempted to light three fires in his store, stole clothes, stole shoes, smashed the windows, and left the store flooding from the sprinklers.

In Richmond, VA, David Waller saw the jewelry store that he runs—that his grandfather founded in the year 1900—ransacked by rioters over the weekend. Waller and Company is one of the oldest Black-owned businesses in Richmond. How is that justice?

In Washington, DC, not only was the historic St. John’s Church burned, when arsonists burned the church, 14 Secret Service agents were injured. In Richmond, 18 law enforcement officers were injured in Philadelphia—some hit by Molotov cocktails, others by rocks and bricks. Ross Martinson, the owner of a small business called the Philadelphia Runner, told the Philadelphia Enquirer: "What is left is mush" after rioters attempted to light fires in his store, stole clothes, stole shoes, smashed the windows, and left the store flooding from the sprinklers.

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the hospital for treatment, and three had not been admitted because of their injuries.

In my home State of Texas, we have seen riots in Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, and Houston, my hometown—the home of George Floyd. In Austin, over the weekend, a group of protesters blocked a highway and destroyed multiple businesses, including a gas station, a Food Mart, a hotel, a Target, a Foot Locker, and other stores and businesses.

In Houston, another group of protesters closed down Highway 59, and rioters destroyed businesses and injured police officers.

This must stop. There are a host of tools that can be used to stop it. The first lines of defense when it comes to violent crime are the brave men and women of our police departments who are risking their lives every night as they engage with rioters and violent criminals.

Just as it is a slander to say that every protester is a violent rioter, it is also a slander—an absolute vicious lie—to paint every police officer as a racist, to paint every police officer as someone who commits abuse of power and false arrest, as we saw with George Floyd.

Yes, there are some who break the law, and that is why the officers are being prosecuted. The rule of law extends to everyone. If a police officer breaks the law, he or she should be prosecuted. But when we are looking to protect our own families, when we are looking to protect our spouse, when we are looking to protect our children—the people we call on to be our first line of defense are the men and women in blue.

Local officials who have decided politically that they are not going to let the police officers arrest the rioters, but they are going to release the rioters; the media that turn a blind eye and don’t report on the police officers being murdered; the Hollywood celebrities who virtue signal and raise money to pay the bail for the people being arrested for violent looting—every one of them is contributing to this problem.

We also have Federal resources. I have spoken with U.S. attorneys in the State of Texas who are directing Federal resources. There are Federal laws on the books against rioting: 18 USC, section 2101, makes it a crime to travel in or use interstate commerce to incite a riot or participate in a riot; 18 USC, section 231, makes it a crime to “obstruct, impede, or interfere” with a law enforcement officer performing his or her duties “in any way” that affects commerce; 18 USC, section 844, makes it a crime to “maliciously [damage] or [destroy], or [attempt] to damage or destroy, by means of fire or an explosive, any building, vehicle, or other real or personal property used in property in state or foreign commerce”; 18 USC, section 1962, the RICO statute, makes it a crime for anyone associated with an enterprise to engage in a pattern of racketeering activity where racketeering activity includes arson and robbery; 26 USC, section 5861(d) makes it a crime to possess a destructive device, which is defined in a way that includes a Molotov cocktail; and 18 USC, section 2332a, makes it a crime to transport or ship in interstate or sell goods that are stolen.

All of these are Federal laws that are available for Federal prosecutors, that are available to the FBI. The message that needs to come clear—loud and clear—is that if you engage in violence, if you engage in looting, if you destroy shops, if you shutter windows, if you light police cars on fire, if you commit acts of violence, if you physically assault your fellow citizens, if you physically assault police officers, if you kill your fellow citizens, if you kill police officers, you will be prosecuted. You will be prosecuted, and you will go away to jail for a very long time.

There are also organizations that are promoting this, that are funding this, that are coordinating this—organizations like antifa. For 2 years, I have been calling on the administration to designate antifa as a domestic terrorist organization. That means we can use law enforcement resources to track down—if you are providing funding and organizing, you will be prosecuted. We will use the RICO laws against you, the same laws that take down drug dealers.

If you are handing out bricks to young African-American men, trying to incite them to commit acts of violence, that is a criminal activity. It is also a cynical, bigoted activity. This must stop.

Our first responsibility is to protect our fellow citizens, to protect their lives, to protect their safety, to protect their rights. The President has that responsibility. Every U.S. attorney in the country has that responsibility. The FBI has that responsibility. The Governors of all 50 States have that responsibility. Mayors have that responsibility. Police chiefs have that responsibility.

It is time for this to stop. It is time for us to come together. And it is time for the demagogues who peddle the vision, who seek personal benefit in fanning the flames of racial animosity, to stop playing games with people’s lives. If you are a Hollywood celebrity and want to make a contribution, make a contribution to a fund rebuilding the small businesses, the African-American businesses, the Hispanic businesses that have been looted and burned and destroyed—make a contribution to a fund that is managed by local, State, and Federal level, Iowa communities and businesses are starting to safely reopen, and many activities are carefully resuming. Iowans can once again participate in America’s great pastime and play golf. Places of worship are opening for services while taking smart precautions. And while they will not be as crowded as they once were, restaurants and bars are taking the first steps in opening again, as well as places that we all grew up going to in Iowa—carnivals, amusement parks, racetracks, outdoor performance venues, movie theaters, and museums—all with important public health guidelines in mind.

All of this is contingent, of course, upon working with our neighbors and keeping America safe. We need to protect every American, regardless of race, regardless of skin color. We need to come together and keep America safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. Loeffler). The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, for months, as our Nation has confronted the pandemic, everyone in America—every single one of us—has been asked to make serious sacrifices, whether that has meant working overtime in a hospital caring for the afflicted, temporarily closing a family business, or canceling a wedding, or forgone an important life event like a high school prom or a college graduation. COVID-19 has brought with it very challenging times.

While we have missed milestones and time together, Americans across the country have stepped up to help slow the spread of this virus and its toll on the lives of our fellow citizens. While we cannot return to life as usual just yet, we are entering a new phase. Step by step, State by State, America is safely reopening.

In Iowa, Governor Kim Reynolds has led our State with a steady hand during this critical time. Under Governor Reynolds’ thoughtful plan and guidance, everyone public health officials at the local, State, and Federal level, Iowa communities and businesses are starting to safely reopen, and many activities are carefully resuming. Iowans can once again participate in America’s great pastime and play golf. Places of worship are opening for services while taking smart precautions. And while they will not be as crowded as they once were, restaurants and bars are taking the first steps in opening again, as well as places that we all grew up going to in Iowa—carnivals, amusement parks, racetracks, outdoor performance venues, movie theaters, and museums—all with important public health guidelines in mind.

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return to work and school. But, folks, the pandemic is not over. Let’s take this one step at a time and keep in mind that while restrictions are being loosened, they are not eliminated, and there is a good reason for that.

As we move forward, Washington can make this transition more safe and successful. Working in partnership with the administration, State leaders, and the private sector, we can continue to increase testing and ensure those who may be infected are following proper guidelines and getting the care and information they need to limit the spread of the virus. We need to make sure our essential workers and others returning to the workforce have the personal protective equipment—the PPE—necessary to allow America to get back to work while ensuring the safety of our great workers.

In addition, these frontline essential workers should absolutely be able to keep their hard-earned paycheck—something I am working on closely with the administration and my colleagues. Our small businesses must be protected from predatory lawsuits. There are Iowa’s mom-and-pop shops can continue to provide paychecks to their hard-working employees.

Of course, we must continue to support our families—our moms and dads who are struggling to purchase diapers; our childcare providers and workers who have continued to look after our kids; our family caregivers who are helping Iowa seniors and those who are most at risk during this pandemic—and make sure they are prepared for whatever might come next.

Let’s not only focus on the immediate needs but on the long-term national priority for critical medical supplies and other materials to be produced right here in the United States of America. We should never again depend on a foreign nation to protect our citizens, especially one like the Communist Party of China, which has been continually and unsurprisingly deceptive about this threat from the very beginning.

Folks, while we still have a ways to go before we can return to life as we know it, we will get through this, and when we do, we will revive the great economy we have built together and prepare for an even stronger future together.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am very pleased to join my colleagues from Iowa to highlight the need to responsibly reopen America and our economy as we continue to fight this COVID pandemic.

Ms. CAPITO. Mr. President, before I talk about opening America, I would like to address a deep tragedy—the brutal death of George Floyd.

It is clear that our entire country is united in horror and opposition to the violent killing. Racial discrimination has absolutely no place in this country whatsoever. This senseless murder is unacceptable, and those responsible should be held accountable. I am anguished at the death of George Floyd. I am anguished at the violence we are seeing on our streets today.

There is no question that we must do our part to change racist attitudes that, unfortunately, exist today, and this must be done in a peaceful way. Looting and violent riots are not the right response to the way we honor George Floyd or those who are protesting peacefully, which is the great majority of people.

The other day, George’s brother encouraged all of us to peacefully protest. He said that violence will not bring his brother back. No, it will not bring his brother back.

It makes me sad to see businesses and monuments that honor some of our bravest heroes destroyed and violence happening in the Nation’s Capitol.

In my State of West Virginia, there have been protests. However, they have been peaceful. I commend my West Virginians for peacefully protesting, and I encourage them to continue this. Instead of violence, we need to come together as a nation, to listen to one another, and to learn from one another. This is how real change can happen.

President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush published a statement yesterday, and I would like to read the last paragraph because I found it really quite moving as to how we are going to address this issue.

The rule of law ultimately depends on the fairness and legitimacy of the legal system. And achieving justice for all is the duty of all. This will require a consistent, courageous, and creative effort. We serve our neighbors best when we try to understand their experience, to look at ourselves when we treat them as equals, in both protection and compassion. There is a better way—the way of empathy, and shared commitment, and a peace rooted in justice. I am confident that together, Americans will choose the better way.

I appreciate so much the entire statement. Those last several words, as I said, really touched me.

On the matter before us today, many communities in our country are beginning to open, including in my State of West Virginia. As everywhere, COVID has had two impacts on our communities and our residents have followed the guidelines. This is how real change can happen. The other day, George’s brother encouraged all of us to peacefully protest. He said that violence will not bring his brother back. No, it will not bring his brother back.

Of course, we must continue to support our families—our moms and dads who are struggling to purchase diapers; our childcare providers and workers who have continued to look after our kids; our family caregivers who are helping Iowa seniors and those who are most at risk during this pandemic—and make sure they are prepared for whatever might come next.

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It is clear that our entire country is united in horror and opposition to the
done. Even though the COVID is still with us, we must continue working together and following the guidelines so we can protect both our economy and our health.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

RESTART ACT

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, last week, I traveled around the great State of Indiana on my RESTART tour. I visited small businesses up and down the State—eight cities, in fact—where we have seen so many Hoosiers adversely impacted by this pandemic. Like many other States, Indiana is starting to open up our economy, and I know so many Hoosiers welcome that.

Our Governor, Eric Holcomb, has been implementing a five-stage plan for safely reopening Indiana’s economy. The cities on my tour have businesses that are in various stages of reopening. Restaurants like the Back 40 Grill in Fort Wayne, Arn’s in Lafayette, and Woody’s Library in Carmel are open at 50-percent capacity right now. The nonprofit Terre Haute Children’s Museum remains closed, unfortunately, and is struggling to pay its employees. I visited Zimmer Biomet, which is a medical device company in Valparaiso. I enjoyed the tour and visiting with the employees, but I discovered that its sales had dropped 95 percent in March. Fortunately, it received a Paycheck Protection Program loan, and that enabled it to keep all 23 of its employees on the payroll.

It is clear that we need to continue evaluating additional relief measures for small businesses and Indiana’s nonprofits. My RESTART Act is a viable approach to help keep our hardest hit businesses and nonprofits going. The RESTART Act is a bipartisan measure I introduced with Senator BENNET. The effort here is to build upon the success of the Paycheck Protection Program. We have seen that more than 74,000 Hoosier businesses have benefited from PPP, with loans totaling nearly $9.4 billion in the State of Indiana. Just for context, that is an average loan of about $130,000. These are for small businesses like those that we see up and down our State.

The Paycheck Protection Program requires funds to be spent in just 8 weeks. It received a Paycheck Protection Program loan, and that enabled it to keep all 23 of its employees on the payroll.

Secondly, we know that the PPP was meant to be a bridge to reopening the economy, but many small businesses have much longer bridges to cross. That is why our new RESTART Program would provide loans that would cover up to 6 months of payroll and fixed operating expenses. That is just for those businesses that have taken a substantial revenue hit during this coronavirus pandemic. My RESTART initiative would provide needed funds with the flexibility for employers to pay bills and to implement social distancing measures, like with those Plexiglas dividers I have seen at so many businesses. Importantly, it would bring employees back to work, which is exactly where they want to be.

Over the last several weeks, I have spoken to thousands of Hoosiers using Zoom teleconferencing capabilities, having conference calls, and other means. I have to say I am truly inspired by the way Hoosiers have come together to help one another during this pandemic. Everyone has done his part. Hoosiers want to work, and business owners are eager to pay them. The RESTART Act can help make sure this happens, and I hope my colleagues will give it strong consideration in the coming days.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BRUNLD and I be allowed to complete our remarks prior to the rollcall votes.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have to say that Tennesseans are enjoying being out and about. They are so thrilled to see the restart of our economy. Whether you are going to hair salons, restaurants, shopping centers, office parks, or manufacturing facilities, what we are hearing from Tennesseans is: Thank goodness we can get back to work. They are grateful that they have had the PPP to help them bridge from the shutdown to the restart. There has been $3.8 billion that has made its way into our State through the PPP program, and our Governor, our Tennessee General Assembly, and our mayors are really working diligently to be certain that our economy opens up, that people are at work safely, and that we continue to defeat this COVID-19.

Over the past few months, we have seen Congress push forward, putting about $3 trillion into the economy for a restart, and State and local governments have already put over $139 billion into supporting local healthcare, helping to rescue businesses, and keeping companies working and local payrolls going—keeping people on the job.

Our Governor and general assembly in Tennessee have just announced a new program that they are doing in conjunction with local businesses. Now, imagine for a moment what it was like to watch the economy tumble from the perspective of a community that was already struggling and trying to navigate through a pandemic that caused catastrophic damage to the traditional economy and also to many of the service organizations that were there to meet needs. In Tennessee, as in many States, struggling communities depend on these nonprofit organizations, like the East Tennessee-based Appalachia Service Project. ASP teams travel throughout Central Appalachia. They repair homes for low-income families. Mayors in the communities that are running on tight budgets, and they depend on volunteers to fix up unsafe or uninhabitable homes. You can only imagine how it felt to the people at ASP to watch their funding evaporate, knowing that the leaky roof that needed attention over in Sneedville would end up turning into a rotten floor and a moldy wall and would be a safety hazard for the individuals who lived there. Fortunately, ASP was able to get an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Grant to save a little bit of breathing room. Although it has had to cancel its volunteer program, its essential staff and contractors will be able to continue working all through the summer.

The various rescue programs that Congress agreed to implement were not perfect by any means, but did they have a positive effect? From what we are hearing in Tennessee, they did, and they have been put to good use. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I am a Main Street entrepreneur. I have spent my career building a little business into a large one over many years in my hometown. My wife, as well, has operated a home accessory and gift store on Main Street, literally. I am elated to see the American economy starting to get off to a smart restart.

I have a little bit of floor speeches before we left in March, the question of how to reopen our economy. I believe businesses are disciplined and ready to pay attention to the rules—the new normal—to make sure their employees and their customers stay safe. Business owners will follow the rules. It is in their own best interests to do so. They have much to lose from a new spike in the coronavirus. Businesses are always more adept, more agile than government, and I am heartened to see the innovative approaches many businesses are taking across our country to address this challenge.

The virus does not affect all populations, industries, and geography of our country in the same way. So, naturally, the reopening in Indianapolis will be different from that on Main Street in Jasper, IN.

We should remember that although this presents challenges, a one-size-fits-all is rarely the best policy of course of action, and decisions that affect citizens are best made by the level of government closest to them—mayors,
town councils, and State governments. We cannot use the blanket approach that
government took in shutting down the
economy to reopen it. Instead, we
need to provide the tools to empower
local leaders and businesses who know
their communities best to reopen safely
so that our country can function
again.

I believe that through the persever-
ance and innovation that American
business has always exhibited, we can
get our economy back on the path to
recent heights without yielding back
any territory to the virus. I
yield the floor.

**VOTE ON ANDERSON NOMINATION**

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate ad-

vise and consent to the Anderson nomi-
nation?

Mr. **ALEXANDER.** Mr. President, I
ask for the yeas and nays.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** Is there a

sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient sec-

ond.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk
called the roll.

Mr. **DURBIN.** I announce that the
Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. **MAR-
KEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr.
**SANDERS**), the Senator from Hawaii
(Mr. **SCHATZ**), the Senator from Min-
nesota (Ms. **SMITH**), and the Senator from
Montana (Mr. **TESTER**) are neces-

sarily absent.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. **COT-
TON**).** Are there any other Senators in

the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78,
nays 17, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 109 Ex.)

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The nomination was confirmed.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** Under the
previous order, the motion to re-

consider is considered made and laid

upon the table, and the President will

be immediately notified of the Senate's

action.

**CLOTURE MOTION**

We, the undersigned Senators, in ac-


cordance with the provisions of rule

XXII of the Standing Rules of the Sen-

de, do hereby move to bring to a close
debate on the nomination of Drew B.
Tipton, of Texas, to be United States
District Judge for the Southern Dis-

tRICT of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Deb Fischer, Steve
Daines, Cory Gardner, Tim Scott, Ted
Cruz, David Perdue, James E. Risch, Roger
F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Lindsey
Graham, Mike Crapo, Michael B. Enzi,
John Barrasso, Marsha Blackburn,
John Thune, Richard C. Shelby.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** By unan-

imous consent, the mandatory quorum
call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the
Senate that debate on the nomination of
Drew B. Tipton, of Texas, to be United States
District Judge for the Southern Dis-

trict of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory
under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. **DURBIN.** I announce that the
Senator from Vermont (Ms. **SCHATZ**), the
Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. **MAR-
KEY**), the Senator from Montana (Mr.
**TESTER**), the Senator from Minnesota
(Ms. **SMITH**), and the Senator from
Montana (Mr. **TESTER**) are neces-
sarily absent.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. **COT-
TON**).** Are there any other Senators in

the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53,
nays 42, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 110 Ex.)

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<th><strong>YEAS—53</strong></th>
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The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** On this
vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** The
clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomi-

nation of Drew B. Tipton, of Texas, to

be United States District Judge for the
Southern District of Texas.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to
consider the nomination.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** The
Democratic leader.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST**—H.R. 709

Mr. **SCHUMER.** Mr. President, in a
moment I will ask unanimous consent
to pass legislation that makes urgently
needed reforms to the PPP to make
the program much more functional for
all—all small businesses. Let me just
ame a few of the changes. First, it expands
the loan period from 8 weeks to 24
weeks. Currently, workers may be
delayed back for the 8 weeks, but what
good is it if they are again laid off after that short
period? It is unrealistic, and small
businesses need assurance that they can

cover the full length of this crisis.

Second, the legislation removes the
25-percent restriction imposed by the
Trump administration on the use of
loans for fixed costs, rents, mortgages,
and utilities, and replaces it with new
60-90 payroll-to-nonpayroll expenses.
This change will continue PPP’s support in
getting workers back on the payroll
while giving small businesses more flexi-

bility to survive in this crisis, which is

essential to the long-term employment
prospect of the workers.

For my home State of New York, we
have high rents, high utility costs.
Many businesses were frozen out when there was 25
percent, but 40 percent
will get them in, and that applies to the
more high-cost areas throughout
the country. Even though these are
small businesses, they are struggling
under those costs.

Third, the proposal extends the pro-
gram to the end of the year, and makes
December 31 the deadline to rehire
workers in order to get full forgiveness
on the loan. We have a long way to go
before the economy will come back in
real ways. This will give businesses a
more realistic timeline to get the help
they need while bringing back employ-

ees.

The bill ensures any amounts of the
loan not forgiven will have at least a 5-
year term of repayment so that small businesses will not be saddled with the need to be repaid within 2 years. The impact of this crisis is long-lasting and requires lenient terms. We have all heard from small businesses in our States that while they are glad there is a program they would have to wait under without it; it is a very good thing—it needed some changes to make it work for so many small businesses that have been left out or rejected.

I say to small businesses across the country, changes apply again even if you applied the first time because it will be easier to meet the requirements and criteria.

This is not controversial. The House of Representatives passed this legislation with a vote of 417 to 1. We can't wait any longer. Businesses are really suffering for lack of these changes, and to wait and wait and wait—if someone wants to make changes, let's do it when we get to the Heroes bill, the COVID bill, but to delay another week or 2 weeks or 3 weeks to get this all bolted up—we can’t afford to wait. Our small businesses cannot afford to wait. These changes are universally agreed to as good ones, and we shouldn’t let someone say: ‘Let’s stop it until we go forward.'

The bill has the broad support of small businesses across industries, mom-and-pop restaurants, underserved businesses, minority businesses, non-profits, small businesses, and workers, medical facilities, local and State governments, and more. Our Republican colleagues must come to the table and work with us to pass future reforms.

Nor will it divert our caucus in its quest for police reform and racial justice. We have to do that as well.

But today we have an opportunity to pass meaningful reforms that our small businesses need now. We must get this done. Some are going under every day. Small businesses that have struggled and sweated—my dad’s was one of them—that need help and can’t get help because of certain problems in this bill will be so relieved when we pass this legislation, which has already passed the House.

I want to particularly thank two people on our side who have worked long and hard on this legislation, who will speak now. One is Senator CARDIN from Maryland, the ranking member of the Committee on Small Business, and one is Senator SHAHEEN, the senior Senator from New Hampshire, who is also a very active member of the Small Business Committee. I hope that passing this legislation in a bipartisan way as it did in the House will give us momentum to keep working on the medical, economic, and racial crises that still affect our Nation.

I yield to the PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, let me thank Senator SCHUMER for bringing this issue to the floor at this time. Senator SCHUMER has been a great leader on what we need to do to help respond to COVID-19. He recognized from the beginning that we needed a balanced program to deal with the health pandemic, with the Marshall Plan, to deal with the help to our State and local governments, and to deal with the economic consequences of COVID-19.

Senator SCHUMER helped us develop a balanced approach to deal with the economic challenges facing the individual through unemployment insurance and direct checks from the IRS but also helping our businesses. For small businesses we created new tools; for larger businesses we had loans.

I was proud to be part of a task force that was charged with developing the tools for small business. I want to thank my partner Senator SHAHEEN for her incredible help and leadership in crafting the programs of the Paycheck Protection Program, which was new and a loan forgiveness program.

We did this working with Senators RUBIO and COLLINS. It was truly bipartisan. We did it in a matter of literally a few days—a week or so, and we were able to get this program crafted in a way that it provided incredible relief to the small businesses of our country.

So today, what is the record? There are 4.5 million loans that have been issued under the Paycheck Protection Program, and $510 billion has been made available to small businesses in this country. It literally has been a lifeline allowing small companies to continue to exist. You see, small companies, we get more job growth than bigger companies. We get ideas on how to deal with economic challenges. But in economic downturns they don't have the liquidity and resilience that these companies have. That is why we had to pass this type of help. We did that in March, and when we passed those bills in March, quite frankly we thought that by now the economy would be in a much better shape than it is and that small businesses would be able to return to some sort of a normal economy. Well, that is not the case.

We recognize that certain businesses—such as those in the hospitality field, health clubs, caterers, museums, and the list goes on and on—have virtually not been able to open at all yet, and they are going to need more help than just the 8 weeks that was planned in the Paycheck Protection Program.

That is why the legislation that passed the House was part of this bipartisan, bicameral effort to give additional flexibility for those who had the paycheck protection plan loans. We recognize now that 8 weeks is not long enough, and that’s why this legislation would change that 8 weeks to 24 weeks, giving small businesses a greater opportunity to qualify for a maximum amount of loan forgiveness and giving small businesses more flexibility on how they allocate those funds between payroll and nonpayroll expenses.

As we heard today in our first oversight hearing in the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, small businesses are different. Maybe 8 weeks works for some, but maybe it doesn’t work for others. Maybe 75 percent of payroll works for one but doesn’t work for another. We need a program that can fit the vast majority of small businesses, and the changes represented those changes that if we had recognized in March that this pandemic would have continuing impact on our economy well beyond 8 weeks, would have certainly been considered during that period of time.

Now is the time to pass this. I just want to underscore this point. The 8 weeks will expire for the first loans that were issued under the PPP program next week. Small businesses need additional help, and they are going to need more help than we gave them in the House bill.

What Senator SCHUMER said is absolutely correct. We will have other opportunities to deal with other provisions to help small businesses. We are not finished. We recognize that there are small businesses that may need additional help, particularly those who have seen dramatic reductions in their revenues and the smaller of the small businesses and those underserved communities. We need to pay attention to whether this is going to be the law or not before they apply for their forgiveness. So we don’t have any extra time. We need to pass this right now. It is a bipartisan effort and is a bipartisan bill.

What Senator SCHUMER said is absolutely correct. We will have other opportunities to deal with other provisions to help small businesses. We are not finished. We recognize that there are small businesses that may need additional help, particularly those who have seen dramatic reductions in their revenues and the smaller of the small businesses and those underserved communities. We need to pay attention to whether this is going to be the law or not before they apply for their forgiveness. So we don’t have any extra time. We need to pass this right now. It is a bipartisan effort and is a bipartisan bill.
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, let me thank my colleagues from Maryland and New Hampshire for their eloquence.

Again, we need to act now. We have waited long enough to make these changes. The House passed them 417 to 1. There may be changes people want to make, but I would urge that we pass this bill now—we pass this bill immediately—because small businesses need the certainty. In the next week or two, many will be affected negatively if we don't get this legislation passed.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate pass this bill immediately—consideration of H.R. 710, which was received from the House; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. Blackburn). Is there objection?

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I appreciate my colleague's desire to help small businesses. I really don't think there is a stronger advocate in support of small business in all of Congress. I think I have proved that with my work in tax reform, fighting for 95 percent of American businesses that are pass-through entities.

I think my colleagues on the floor here today realize that what the House passed has one very significant flaw in it—probably a technical drafting error but a significant flaw—which says that if you are a reciever of the PPP loan on payroll, you get no forgiveness, which was a dramatic difference from what it was when you had 75 percent.

I am in favor of all those changes. As Senator Shaheen pointed out, there are a lot of problems with PPP that need to be corrected. My only objection is, before we authorize this and put an authorization date all the way to December 31, we need to make sure those changes are made.

So my only objection is we should not extend this authorization without significant reforms that I hope my colleagues would all agree with; for example, the fact that many businesses again, I am not denying that PPP provided very swift funding to businesses truly needed it. It was a real lifeline. It worked from that standpoint.

But, in our case, we all knew that we had to do something massive, we had to do something quick, but we also knew it was going to be far from perfect. In our haste in crafting this, we made it possible for many businesses that didn't need it at all to have access to those funds, and we don't have an unlimited supply.

When we give money to support businesses that don't need it, we are going to have less money to give to those that truly do need it.

Unfortunately, what we are down to here with this unanimous consent request—we have been working in good faith with the sponsors of the House bill, with the Republican leadership. I reached out to the Democratic leader, saying that we are very close; I think we will be able to pass the House bill, with assurances, by unanimous consent, just not at this moment.

So, again, I appreciate their thoughts. I am really not disagreeing with the fact that we have to do something. I want to do something as well. I just want to make sure that if we do put more money into this thing, it is not going to be flowing to businesses that don't need it, thereby denying those businesses that truly do need it in a more targeted fashion.

So, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I respect the good faith and sincerity in my colleague from Wisconsin.

I would say this: If we change this bill and then go to conference with the House, we risk too much delay. We should move the bill now. We are willing to, certainly, look at the changes that my colleague from Wisconsin proposes, and we can do that in a UC tomorrow, next week, whenever—but not hold this bill up because, even if the Senator is right in his interpretation—which may be right; it may be wrong—it doesn't affect 95 percent of the businesses in the next few weeks that need help.

So we ought to pass this bill, help the urgent needs that those businesses have, and whatever corrections that my colleague from Wisconsin wishes to make, I am sure my colleagues from Maryland and New Hampshire and I would look at. But to hold this bill up now, which passed 417 to 1 in the House and which does so many good and needed things, unaffected by the provision that he is having trouble with, I think would be a sincere mistake.

So I would ask him to reconsider. We need to pass this bill today.

Mr. JOHNSON. Will the Democratic leader yield?

Mr. SCHUMER. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. JOHNSON. What we are working on is not a change to this legislation. The way we are working this will still be able to pass his principles—legislation unamended, unchanged, with a letter of intent from the chairs and the ranking members of both the House and the Senate—together with a commitment from the majority leader—and we can pass this as-is.

We don't have to delay it. We are just this close. I am objecting at this time. Give us a little bit more time to work out that method, and then we will be able to pass this measure without amendment—no changes—pass this and then work in good faith together to make those changes I think we all agree need to be changed in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Will my colleague from Wisconsin yield for a question?

Mr. JOHNSON. Sure.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Do I understand that you think you won't see a resolution of this by this afternoon, so you expect at that point to come back in with another UC request to pass this bill?
Mr. JOHNSON. Yes. With cooperation from the chairman and the ranking member of both committees, I think we will be able to get this thing done.

Again, our request is really very simple. I am not the only one. We don't want to see this program automatically reauthorized until the end of December. Now, there is some dispute as to whether the language actually does that. It sounds like the intent was not to do that; it was just to allow people to spend money through the end of December, which we have no problem with.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. That is my understanding of the bill; it doesn't allow you to apply for the loan through December.

Mr. JOHNSON. So, again, CRS actually interprets it as a full authorization, so we just need to show what that true intent is, put that letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that we are certain that we are not reauthorizing this or authorizing it through December 31; that the authorization does end June 30 so that, if we do want to put more funds into a program like PPP, that new program will have the type of direct reforms that I think we really could gain agreement on.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my colleague. I would simply say that it seems to me he has it a little backward.

We should pass this bill and then work on the changes—not hold this bill up. Who knows what can happen? Maybe it will happen today; maybe it will not. We have the moment to do it now. We waited 2½ days. We could have done the UC Monday. We waited until Wednesday afternoon. We are leaving here tomorrow at about 1.

The House is not in session now. It would be very, very wise and helpful to small business—and I have talked to many of them all across the country—to pass this bill now, and then we will work in good faith on the small change that my colleague wished to have.

Mr. JOHNSON. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield.

Mr. JOHNSON. The way we are working this out, there would be no change required, just a letter for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD stating what I believe the intent was, just to allow people to spend money through December. We are just working out the details of that language, and then we will be able to allow this to pass by unanimous consent.

By the way, I have gotten other Members who are objecting to this to agree to this as well.

So just give us a little bit more time; agree to that language. Hopefully, the ranking member would agree with that letter for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Pass this bill, unchanged. Then, in the future, because this PPP will expire June 30, but the need does not.

If you read my article in the Wall Street Journal, I have a number of, I think, innovative ideas for what we can do to help restore capital for businesses that are going to need it to reopen our economy, and I would love to work very closely.

I obviously have experience in businesses and I would like to work with the chairman and ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I think the Senator would yield, he has mentioned several different issues. I appreciate the fact that we are trying to get this done today and that he is indicating we have a path forward to get this completed this afternoon and the House bill to the President, which is our objective, so that small business owners understand—24 weeks before their loans expire and understand the additional flexibility on how they can spend the money because they are making those decisions literally today.

The Senator mentioned several different issues that he is concerned about, but it appears that the one area in which he is seeking consensus here deals with the authority to issue a loan under the PPP program through June 30 of this year, which is what the law is, and I don’t believe it is changed by the House bill. Is that the issue for which you are seeking to get consensus from the ranking member and chairman?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes. Again, there is a dispute as to what the language actually says. Again, I have no problem with the full $660 billion that has already been appropriated to be spent whenever. But I don’t want to reauthorize the program past June 30 without the types of reforms that we can talk about. Then we will pass it through regular order.

What I am suggesting here is to just wait until we have this letter of intent for the Chairman. We are working with the chairman or ranking member of the Small Business Committees of both houses to agree to and sign, and then we will pass this bill as-is, unchanged, to give those small businesses the certainty we want to provide them.

Mr. CARDIN. I am just trying to figure out what I am supposed to be signing as ranking member of the committee. If I understand—because the Senator had mentioned problems with the 60 vote deadline—Mr. JOHNSON. We will deal with those in the future.

Mr. CARDIN. I just want to make sure we have—

Mr. JOHNSON. I have no demands other than one—again, we are so close. We are first working to get out on our side, and then we will consult you, and maybe we will pass it yet tonight or early tomorrow morning. That is my goal as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if my friend from Wisconsin is willing to delay the other changes he wants and try to work those out, it would make eminent sense to delay this one, as well, and try to work that out and pass this bill. You never know what happens.

We should pass it today, not wait for tomorrow. We should pass it now, not wait a few hours. Lord knows what can happen. Businesses are crying out.

I think our moving here will move the process forward. It wouldn’t have been as quickly as moving the bill, but it is still a better bet to help small businesses, even with the concern my colleague has, to pass this bill now.

I would make one final plea. Let’s pass this now. If not, we should pass it today.

Mr. JOHNSON. I am happy to come back or let you come back and ask for unanimous consent if we get this hammered out, and I will not object. But, at this point, I am going to object until we get this hammered out.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today as the United States of America, again, faces the enormous challenge and responsibility of striving to live up to the preamble of the Constitution of the United States.

The preamble provides: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

I note that our Founders, who were far from perfect when it came to racial issues, thought that justice was more important than domestic tranquility. They listed justice first.

Today, America is grieving over the brutal and unnecessary death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25. Both State and Federal law enforcement officers are moving quickly to bring the police officers in this case to justice and hold them accountable for their actions, as Mr. Floyd’s cries of “I can’t breathe” went unanswered as the life drained out of him.

Video taken by several witnesses shows that George Floyd—who was Black and was unarmed—was handcuffed and pinned to the ground by a police officer who held his knee against Mr. Floyd’s neck as he pleaded for his life. Mr. Floyd was on the ground, repeatedly telling the officer that he couldn’t breathe, despite the fact that bystanders are all heard on video begging the officer to relent, he did not remove his knee from Mr. Floyd’s neck until after an ambulance arrived.

Eventually Mr. Floyd lost consciousness, he was pronounced dead after being transported to a local hospital.

As leaders, regardless of party, we cannot stay silent about George
Floyd’s death. Black lives matter. George Floyd was a father, a son, and a brother. His life mattered. He did not need to die. He and his family deserve justice. How many other Black men and women have died at the hands of law enforcement or vigilante civilians due to the color of their skin but have not been caught on video? Those victims deserve justice too.

We must act, working together, to fundamentally reform the ways police interact with the communities they serve.

On Monday night, President Trump once again failed to lead this Nation in a time of crisis, and he has forfeited his moral authority as President. Spraying tear gas at peaceful protesters to clear a path for a photo op is opposite of American values and basic human rights. It violates civil and human rights under any circumstances.

President Biden and the Senate prepared to hold hearings on police reform and racial profiling issues, I want to bring to my colleagues’ attention two pieces of legislation that I have filed: The End Racial and Religious Profiling Act and the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act. If enacted, these two bills could make an enormous difference and constitute a giant step forward in reforming police departments across this Nation, improving community relations, and reducing crime.

The End Racial and Religious Profiling Act is designed to enforce the constitutional rights of Americans and to protect the civil rights of all people, without regard to their race, religion, national origin, or any other protected category. It includes race? The answer is yes. But the bill prohibits blanket targeting solely based on race or one of the other protected categories.

This bill also mandates training on racial profiling issues as part of Federal law enforcement training. The collection of data on all routine and spontaneous investigatory activities, and the creation of procedures for receiving, investigating, and responding meaningfully to complaints alleging racial or religious profiling will be minimized through appropriate management, training, and oversight protocols. The bill provides that if such incidents do occur, they will be properly investigated.

The bill provides police officers—the vast majority of whom perform their job professionally, putting their lives on the line daily, protecting their communities—with the tools necessary to improve community relations and enhance their professional growth and education.

It authorizes $25 million for additional expenses related to the enforcement of civil rights statutes, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments regarding police misconduct brought by the Department of Justice.

In Baltimore City, for example, the Baltimore Police Department voluntarily entered into a consent decree in 2017 with the U.S. Department of Justice to overhaul the police department. An earlier Department of Justice report had found a widespread pattern and practice of illegal and unconstitutional conduct by the Baltimore Police Department through targeting African American people for disproportionate and disparate treatment.

The legislation I have authored also authorizes appropriations for additional expenses related to conflict resolution, including programs managed by the Department of Justice’s Community Relations Services within the Civil Rights Division.

I am pleased that, to date, the protests in Baltimore have been largely peaceful, especially compared to 2015 after the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore Police Department custody.

I do hope my fellow Americans look to Baltimore in 2020 as an example for how to peacefully protest and petition the government for redress of grievances, as Baltimore has willingly agreed to work with the U.S. Department of Justice to overhaul its entire police force so that policing its citizens is both fair and effective.

As many of my colleagues have said before, “Civil Rights is still the unfinished business of America.” Prejudice, discrimination, and outright racism continues to limit the lives of the large percentage of us of color who continue the struggle today in order to make urgent progress.

As I close, I am reminded of my dear friend, the late Representative Elijah Cummings, who died last year. He was a fellow Baltimorean and fellow graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. He gave the eulogy for Freddie Gray in 2015, who died after being arrested and taken into police custody. Cummings recalled. She said, “He’s going to die.”

During the church service, he closed with a quote from the Book of Amos: “I want justice, oceans of it. I want fairness, rivers of it. That’s what I want. That’s all I want.”

Elijah also asked a pointed question of those of us at the funeral that day, as well as to the news cameras that were broadcasting the event nationally and around the world. Elijah asked: “Did anyone recognize Freddie when he was alive? Did anyone see him?”

Elijah asked whether society had done all that it could have done when Gray was “struggling to simply be alive in the United States.”

As many of my colleagues have said
steps in establishing justice in our still imperfect Union. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to complete my remarks before the vote occurs.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, since the Federal Bureau of Investigation launched the Crossfire Hurricane counterintelligence investigation in July of 2016, there has been no shortage of media coverage of Russia’s involvement in our 2016 election. For the better part of 3 years, there has been news; there has been speculation; there have been rumors; there have been partisan accusations made about that topic.

Trying to keep up with the names and the dates, the allegations left you feeling like an old-school detective show—names and photos pinned to a board, with strings of yarn connecting all the plots. Even before the release of the special counsel’s report to be the moment when those dots were finally connected and it explained what happened and who was responsible.

It is safe to say that did not happen. Even the Mueller report did not find any collusion or obstruction, there was a lot of information that since has been made public about its origins, its motivation, and the means by which that investigation occurred. In fact, rather than settling the matter, these revelations have prompted a whole new range of questions about the investigation itself.

First of all, we had Rod Rosenstein in the Judiciary Committee. He was the Deputy Attorney General. I asked him whether he was aware of any precedent for what happened in 2016 when, at the same time, both major parties’ political nominees for President of the United States were the subject of open FBI investigations. He said: No, there is no precedent for that.

First, of course, it was the Hillary email scandal, after which Director Comey made another unprecedented move and had a press conference saying that even though she had been essentially grossly negligent in handling this private email server, he thought that no reasonable prosecutor would bring charges against her.

As Secretary Clinton might have appreciated that announcement, or not, a few weeks later, the FBI Director wrote another letter and said: Hey, we have some Anthony Weiner emails that came up on his laptop, so we need to reopen the investigation a few days before the general election.

Well, you can imagine Secretary Clinton didn’t appreciate that. Many people have said that it is because of the FBI’s unusual involvement in the middle of a Presidential election that it damaged, if not decided, the election in 2016.

And then, of course, there is the Trump-Russia influence investigation, better known as Crossfire Hurricane, leading up to the Mueller investigation and where we are today. In the time since the special counsel completed his investigation and issued his report more than a year ago, we have learned more about the behind-the-scenes work that guided the Russia probe.

Thanks to Inspector General Horowitz and his team at the Department of Justice, then and under the Director, the Director of National Intelligence, and others for declassifying important information, we have a whole lot more insight and transparency into exactly what happened. But these revelations have given all of us pause for grave concern. They have highlighted a pattern of sloppiness and outright abuse of power at the highest levels of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and beyond and raised red flags that must be addressed.

In the Senate, it is our duty to get to the bottom of an additional matter: why didn’t he happen? I can’t imagine any Democrat, any Republican, any American saying what happened in the 2016 election to Hillary Clinton and to Donald Trump was OK. Our law enforcement agencies should not play a starring role in an election leading up to the Nation’s highest office.

This morning, the first step in our investigation into the origins, means, and methods of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation occurred in the Judiciary Committee. That is where we heard from Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. He wasn’t the Deputy Attorney General until the spring of 2017, but he did play a key role in the investigation. He signed one of the applications for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act warrant that allowed the FBI to essentially surveil an American citizen. He was the one who appointed Special Counsel Bob Mueller. He ended up being a key investigation, but also a witness in the process.

His account of what happened in the Crossfire Hurricane investigation is important to understanding both the actions and the motivations that drove that investigation. In fact, he said this morning, in response to Chairman Lindsey Graham’s question, if you knew then what you know now, would you have signed, sworn to this verified application for a warrant to surveil an American citizen? Page? He said: No. To his credit, he said no. “If I knew then, what I know now.”

Some of my greatest concerns stem from the Department of Justice Inspector General’s report about those FISA abuses, as they are called—Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. This is extraordinary authority given by Congress under very strict rules, and they are supervised by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which was established to provide oversight of these intelligence activities, including surveillance of American citizens under very narrow and restricted guardrails.

If the U.S. intelligence authorities, or law enforcement agencies, believe surveillance is critical to a national security investigation, they submit an application to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to receive that authorization. This is an important step in a process that includes openness to American citizens and making sure that our intelligence and law enforcement authorities perform their job consistent with congressional intent and direction. But these verified, in other words, sworn documents are absolutely critical for which accuracy is paramount. That is why they are required to be verified—that is, sworn to—by the top officials at the Department of Justice.

We now know that the applications of the former Trump campaign aide Carter Page were riddled with errors. In the initial Carter Page FISA application, Inspector General Horowitz identified what he called seven mistakes. In the three renewals, he had found an additional 10. These were not necessarily honest mistakes. In fact, they included significant and material errors, including the deliberate falsification, lying—lying to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court about Carter Page’s past service to the U.S. Government.

To make matters worse, even as new and exculpatory material came to light, this information was not reflected in renewal applications. It was cut and pasted. Those agents who prepared those materials that were signed by people like Rod Rosenstein lied to deceive the court so they could continue to surveil, or spy, on an American citizen—something we do not want to happen unless they are truly an agent of a foreign power and there is probable cause to show that they are such.

These revelations were very troubling in December of 2019, and they are more troubling now. This also raise questions about the motivations for the investigation, in the first place. Falsifying a FISA application is clearly not an action one would take if you were in pursuit of the truth. We need to know why the initial application and three renewals were riddled with lies and omissions and how these inaccurate applications were approved by high-ranking officials at the Department of Justice.

The second, this raises serious questions about the way investigations of average Americans are being handled. If these agents were able to break every rule in the book to spy on a Presidential candidate—who ultimately was elected—and are facing no consequences, no accountability, what protections exist for the rest of us in America? Who is going to notice their error-ridden FISA applications if it is John or Jane Q. Public?

What is even more disconcerting is, if they were able to do it did happen more than once—what is to stop it from happening again? The American people need and deserve answers to
these questions, and today’s hearing in the Judiciary Committee was the first step in getting the answers to those questions and hopefully corrective action.

Chairman GRAHAM has been clear that we will look at this investigation from all angles—covering the FISA abuses, unmasking requests, and the origins of both Crossfire Hurricane, and the appointment of special counsel.

The assembled transcripts that recently were released by the House Intelligence Committee—actually, declassified by the Director of National Intelligence—only underscores the important need for oversight by the Senate and by the Congress.

Reading these transcripts, which were taken in secret, in a secure facility, and only recently made public, I have been shocked at some of the statements made by former Obama administration officials.

Based on the way Chairman SCHIFF repeatedly claimed to have direct evidence, you would think these officials would provide the smoking gun to the committee. But no—witness after witness had no evidence of collusion, coordination, or conspiracy between anyone in the Trump campaign and Russia. What did they do?

They walked outside of that secure facility, and they spoke to the TV cameras assembled there, and they lied. They misrepresented what was said during that classified testimony.

This really begs the question: Why did this investigation begin and how, without evidence, did it last for nearly 2 years?

Additionally, I have a lot of questions about the sloppy and incomplete investigative work surrounding Crossfire Hurricane when it came to the use of something called a confidential human source.

Christopher Steele, former intelligence officer from the United Kingdom, was hired by Fusion GPS to do opposition research against the Trump campaign for the Hillary Clinton campaign. Yet, at the same time, he was considered by the FBI as a confidential human source.

Inspector General Horowitz’s report makes clear Mr. Steele and his FBI handler did not even agree on the terms of their arrangement. Steele said: I am a businessman collecting information. The FBI said: Well, this is just between us, and you can’t talk to the public about what you have seen.

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Madam 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessary to the Tipton nomination: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURRE)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBuchar), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. SMITH), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Are there any other Senator in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

(Roll Call Vote No. 111 Ex.)

YEAS—32

Alexander
Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Enzi
Enzi
Fischer

Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hawley
Johnson
Johnson
Inhofe
Johnson
Lankford
Lankford
Leffler
Mackenzie
Mendez
Morrison
Mnookin
Paul

Portman
Risch
Roberts
Romney
Romney
Rubio
Rubic
Scott (FL)
Scott (NC)
Shelby
Sulliva
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Wicker
Young

NAYS—41

Baldwin
Bennett
Binnenthal
Boehner
Brown
Cantwell
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Enzi
Feinstein

Gillibrand
Harris
Hassan
Henryrich
Hirono
Jones
Kaine
King
Mansfield
Menges
Menendez
Merkley
Murray
Whitehouse
Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

IMMIGRANT HEALTHCARE HEROES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Americans owe a great debt of gratitude to the healthcare heroes on the frontlines of the fight against the COVID–19 virus.

Today I would like to spend a minute talking about one special group of those healthcare workers: immigrants.

Consider this: One out of every six healthcare and social service workers in America is an immigrant—3 million out of 18 million immigrants. They are playing a critical role in the battle against the pandemic. Yet our broken immigration laws do not allow many of them to fulfill their dreams of actually becoming Americans.

I have come to this floor today to tell the story of one of our immigrant healthcare heroes. I will continue to highlight these stories in the coming weeks. There has been so much negative publicity about immigrants. Yet, when you follow what is happening in hospitals across America—large and small, rural and urban—and so many times you ask “Doctor, where were you born?” you find they weren’t born in the United States, but they came here to practice medicine, and now their work is saving lives every day.

I invite my colleagues and others to share stories from their own communities and their own States and to use the social media hashtag “Immigrant Health Heroes.”

Thousands of immigrant health workers are suffering because of a serious problem in our immigration system. It is called the green card backlog. If you are not in immigrant status, you may not know anything about it, but trust me, they do.

This backlog puts them and their families at risk of losing their immigration status, and it hinders their ability to join in the fight against COVID–19. Under current law, there are not nearly enough immigrant visas—also known as green cards—available each year. As a result, many immigrants in the United States are stuck
in crippling backlogs, not just for years but for decades. Close to 5 million future Americans—close to 5 million—are in line waiting for green cards. Hundreds of thousands are working in the United States on a temporary visa while many more are waiting abroad, separated from their American families.

Only 226,000 family green cards and 140,000 employment green cards are available each year. The backlogs are a real hardship on these families caught in immigration purgatory. For example, children in many of these families age out and face deportation. While their parents are waiting for the green card, the child reaches the age where they are deported, at age 21.

The green card backlog includes thousands of doctors currently working in the United States on temporary visas. These doctors face many restrictions due to their temporary status, such as not being able to take shifts at hospitals in COVID-19 hotspots where they may be desperately needed.

The solution to the green card backlog is very clear: Increase the number of green cards.

In 2013, I joined a group of four Republicans and four Democrats who authored bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform legislation. Our bill, which passed the Senate on a strong bipartisan 68-to-32 vote, would have eliminated this green card backlog.

Last year I introduced the RELIEF Act, legislation based on the 2013 comprehensive immigration reform bill, which would clear the backlogs for all immigrants waiting in line for green cards within 5 years. I will keep fighting to help these immigrants here in the United States who simply want a chance to stay and contribute.

The green card backlog poses a significant risk to our ability to effectively respond to this pandemic. Our bill, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, is a temporary stopgap effort that will strengthen our healthcare workforce and improve healthcare for Americans in the midst of this national emergency.

Our bill would reallocate 25,000 unused immigrant visas for nurses and 15,000 unused immigrant visas for doctors. These are visas that Congress has previously authorized but were not used.

It is important to note that our bill requires employers to attest to a very important fact. They have to attest that immigrants from overseas who receive these visas will not displace an American worker. We want to ensure that the beneficiaries of this bill help build our workforce but not at the expense of those already here in the United States.

Our bill now has 13 Republican and 13 Democratic cosponsors and broad support from the medical community. As Congress works on the next legislation to address the COVID-19 pandemic, I am going to join my Republican colleagues and push for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act to be included.

Today, let me tell you the story of one immigrant healthcare worker stuck in this green card backlog waiting indefinitely, for years, and he would benefit from the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act: Dr. Parth Mehta, born in India.

As a child, he was inspired to pursue a career in medicine by his grandfather, who worked as an assistant to a physician, and by his older sister, who is a surgeon.

Dr. Mehta came to the United States in the year 2004. He has been here 16 years. He obtained a master’s in public health at Saint Xavier University in the city of Chicago. He then completed his residency in internal medicine at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chicago.

In 2010, 10 years ago, Dr. Mehta began working at the Healthcare Network, Health Methodist Medical Center in downstate Peoria, IL.

He sent me a letter, and here is what he says about being a doctor:

I feel that it is a great privilege to help people, comforting them, healing them, and making them better when they are most vulnerable.

Dr. Mehta lives in Peoria with his wife and his 10-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter, and he writes, in addition:

We have called Peoria home for 10 years now and we love our community here. We have bought a home here, built a career here, and we plan to stay in this community as long as we can.

Now Dr. Mehta is on the frontlines of the pandemic, treating COVID-19 patients. He was also selected as the principal investigator for a COVID–19 trial for which the hospital has applied, but unfortunately, Dr. Mehta is one of thousands of doctors who are stuck in this green card backlog. He has been on a temporary work visa for 13 years. He has been forced to renew his visa four times since he became a doctor. His green card petition was filed in 2011, but he will have to wait years and years before he receives a green card.

In the midst of this pandemic, Dr. Mehta’s immigration status puts him in a very heavy heart that I stand today in especially worried about his wife, who has asthma. In March, she was diagnosed with pneumonia and was hospitalized for 10 days, including a stay in the intensive care unit.

Here is what Dr. Mehta wrote to me about this: 

Mehta’s story makes it clear why Congress needs to pass the Healthcare and Workforce Resilience Act. Under our bill, Dr. Mehta and thousands of others like him could receive their green cards. They and their families would get the permanent immigration status they deserve and be able to use their skills to serve on the frontlines of the pandemic, where they are needed most.

I don’t put a sign in the window saying that you love healthcare workers, don’t come out at 7 at night and beat on a pan to show that you care for healthcare workers and ignore the reality that this man in Peoria, IL, is risking his life every day to treat those patients, and we have written a law that says you are basically not welcome in the United States.

How can we say this to him, to thousands just like him, doctors and nurses who are really caring for the people we love and risking their own lives in the process?

It would be great, in these times of political division, if we could come together in this Congress to quickly aid these immigrant healthcare heroes.

The bill that I have introduced with Senator PERDUE, Senator YOUNG, and others is a step toward reality, toward realizing that people just like these make us a better nation and a stronger nation.

Dr. Mehta and his family, with all their fears, should know that there are many here in Congress, particularly here in the Senate, who want to move as quickly as possible and make sure that their lives are better because they have done so much to make the lives of others better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING NATE LYDAY

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is with a very heavy heart that I stand today in
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the Senate to talk about the death of two Americans last week. One tragedy is tearing our communities apart. The other may well show us a path back toward unity.

We all know about the brutal, senseless killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis last Monday. There is excuse for what the police did to Mr. Floyd. His killers are being brought to justice.

His death, we hope, will not be remembered for the senseless violence launched falsely in his name but, rather, hopefully, in the long-term reform of policing policies across our country.

In my home State of Utah, the city of Ogden is mourning another death, that of Police Officer Nate Lyday.

On Thursday, May 28, a woman called 9-1-1 saying that her husband was threatening her life. Lyday and a group of officers arrived promptly at the house. The man began shooting at them from inside the home. Lyday was mortally wounded.

He was just 24 years old. He was about to celebrate his fifth wedding anniversary with his wife Ashley.

He had been on the job as a police officer for just 15 months. By all accounts, he would do it honorably and completely up to the last moment. Nate Lyday was an officer who sought to uphold justice and protect the innocent, even making the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of a threatened and fearful family.

Nate Lyday was a “son of Ogden,” as Police Chief Randy Watt said. Ogden was where he was born and raised, where he went to high school, and where he worked on a regular basis at the Fresh Market on 20th Street and where he got his degree in criminal justice from Weber State University.

And it was where he was proud to serve and protect his community as a sworn police officer. According to Lieutenant Eynon, Lyday was an officer who “worked over and above the call of duty.” Eynon said that whenever he passed Lyday in the hallways, the young officer would always smile at him, even before he had a chance to smile first.

As his colleagues, his friends, and his classmates remember him, Nate Lyday made everyone around him feel like a friend, no matter how well they knew him because they were indeed his friends.

This Saturday, while far too many other communities throughout our Nation were tearing themselves apart, Ogden came together. Hundreds of Ogden residents gathered near the front steps of the Ogden Municipal Building to honor the memory of George Floyd and to call for nationwide police reform.

But this was not a divisive event designed to make everyone choose sides between police and protesters. As Malick Dayo, an Ogden activist and organizer, said that day:

This is a peaceful protest. This is not an anti-cop rally. This is a solidarity rally.

The protesters at the event honored George’s memory, they condemned racism, and they called for policing reforms. They also thanked the officers who were there, the same officers there protecting them and protecting their First Amendment rights to speak freely and rather peacefully. And they honored the memory of Officer Lyday, who lost his life answering the call of duty just a few days before.

“I gave them my condolences for their fallen officer—because we’re all part of the same community,” Dayo said of the police after the protest.

And Dayo is right. Nate Lyday’s loss is our loss. George Floyd’s loss is our loss. And we ought to honor and remember them both.

We must all work to uphold justice for all. Both of these tragic, horrific deaths last week show us just how far we still have to go to achieve this goal.

I am working, each and every day. We cannot do that work by pitting ourselves against one another—race versus race, police versus protester.

We will never move forward if we continue to reduce human beings to the color of their skin or the color of their uniform. We are all one Nation, and it will only be in standing and in working together, in peaceful solidarity, that we can finally heal the wounds in our Nation.

What the people of Ogden did this weekend is an example for us all. And it is a reason for hope.

I yield the floor to the PRESIDING OFFICER, the Senator from Louisiana.

THE GULF OF MEXICO

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes today about the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Great American Outdoors Act, and fairness.

Let me start with the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act—GOMESA, as you know.

Louisianians started drilling off our coast in the Gulf of Mexico in the 1930s. They were Louisiana people, Louisiana companies. There were some other States represented, as well, but they were primarily Louisiana companies.

A lot of people laughed at us, said it couldn’t be done. We know you can drill for oil and natural gas and supply the country’s energy needs by onshore production, but offshore, man, you are dreaming.

We did it. Then we did it again and we did it again and we did it again. All of a sudden, the Federal Government said: Huh, there is money to be had. And the Federal Government came in and said: Louisiana, you can’t do that anymore. We own all the land under the oceans and the Gulf of Mexico.

Well, predictably, Louisiana disagreed. We went to court. After 30 years of litigation, litigation, litigation, Louisiana lost. The courts ended up ruling that Louisiana owns the land in the Gulf from its coastline out to 3 miles, and the Federal Government owns the rest. And the Federal Government owns the rest. That is a little bit of oversimplification, but not much.

I always thought that was unfair. For example, Texas, our sister State—I love Texas—owns from its coastline 10 miles out. We only own 3 miles out.

More oil and gas wells were drilled in the Gulf of Mexico. It became one of the major—if not the major—sources of oil and natural gas for energy needs of America up to the point that we were producing and still are producing about $5 billion that goes right into the Treasury of the United States of America.

In 2006, Congress passed GOMESA. Thank you, Congress, for doing this. GOMESA said that the Federal Government is going to start sharing some of the oil and gas revenue and we are not going to share all of them. We are just going to share the oil and gas royalties from lands under the ocean in the Gulf of Mexico for all future leases after 2006—not past leases, only future leases. However, that money has not been delivered to Congress. On all these new leases drilled after 2006, the U.S. Treasury will take 50 percent of oil and gas royalties. The Gulf-producing States will take 37.5 percent. By the Gulf-producing States, I mean Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama. And 12.5 percent of the oil and gas royalties from these new leases—not old leases, these new leases—will go to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I will come back to the Land and Water Conservation Fund in a moment.

Keep in mind, I said that under GOMESA, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi share in 37.5 percent of all the oil and gas royalties from the old leases, not the old leases. But the amount that we are entitled to receive is capped.

To give you an idea of the money we are talking about, in 2019, the four Gulf-producing States received about $350 million in offshore oil and gas royalties. Louisiana received $155 million of that $350 million. There is a formula that apportions the money between and among the four gulf-producing States.

GOMESA caps, in a fairly complicated formula, the amount the gulf-producing States can receive under GOMESA at $375 million. Our four States will hit that cap in 2024. It doesn’t matter how much drilling increases in the Gulf of Mexico, the four Gulf-producing States can only receive $375 million, split among themselves, until, I think, 2055.

Other States not located on coastline also have Federal lands on which oil and natural gas and coal and other minerals are produced. I am happy for them. They, as a result of congressional legislation—by “they” I mean those other States, 24 of them—get 50
percent of the royalties of all the oil and gas and coal and other minerals produced from Federal lands in their States. The Feds get 50 percent; the States get 50 percent.

I am happy for them. I couldn’t be more pleased for my sister States. I wish we got 50 percent—‘we’ meaning the gulf-producing States. It seems unfair to me that we don’t. We only get 37.5 percent on certain leases. Our sister States onshore get 50 percent of all leases. Their money isn’t capped; ours is.

Let me talk about the Land and Water Conservation Fund. As you know, this is a fund that was set up in 1964. It had to be authorized every year and then. We made it permanent 2 years ago—‘we’ meaning, of course, Congress. The purpose of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is to take money appropriated by Congress and put it into that fund and use it to buy land and water to make that land and water available for all Americans to enjoy it. I am supportive of that. I think most of us are.

The only money dedicated to the Land and Water Conservation Fund is that 12.5 percent I talked about dedicated through GOMESA. The other moneys that have been put into the fund through the years, other than the GOMESA moneys, have had to be appropriated by Congress on a year-to-year basis. Once again, I am supportive of that concept, and I am happy as a clam at high tide that my sister States out west get 50 percent. I just think it is unfair that we only get 37.5 percent.

As you know, we are going to consider a bill next week called the Great American Outdoors Act. Here is what it would do. No. 1, it will set up a dedicated automatic funding source for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. That dedicated source is going to come from oil and gas royalties produced in the Gulf of Mexico. In the meantime, the gulf-producing States—primarily Louisiana, but also Texas, Alabama, Mississippi—we are going to be stuck at 37.5 percent. It is capped. It is capped at $8.8 billion a year from now until 2055. With inflation, by 2055, it will be worth about 7 bucks and 23 cents.

That doesn’t seem fair to me. It especially doesn’t seem fair to me when you consider that the Gulf of Mexico is producing the money—actually, oil companies are. But do the oil companies do that? They do it with Louisiana. Most of the leases and wells are off Louisiana’s coast. I am not putting down Mississippi, Alabama, or Texas because there is drilling off their coast as well. But facts are facts. Most of the drilling is off Louisiana’s coast. A lot of the workers are from Louisiana.

Do you know what makes that drilling possible? Louisiana tax dollars. We pay for the roads that support Port Fourchon, which is vital and located in my State for that oil and gas production. We pay for the schools that educate the kids of the workers. We take all the risk.

We know what happened with the BP oilspill. If there is another oilspill in the Gulf, it is Louisiana and Texas and Alabama and Mississippi that are going to get slammed. It is not going to be the inland States. That is where I said I am going to talk about fairness.

Senator Cassidy—and I don’t see speak for Senator Cassidy. Understand, he is my senior Senator. But he and I are working on a way to improve the Great American Outdoors Act. It is going to make it so much better.

I am introducing a bill tomorrow, and I am going to offer an amendment to the Great American Outdoors Act—once again, I don’t speak for Senator Cassidy—but I think he will support it—that is going to remove the cap on the amount of oil and gas royalties that the four gulf-producing States can receive under GOMESA.

Let me say it again. Right now, nobody else is capped. We are capped. The most that Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas can receive, split among ourselves, is $375 million. We are going to hit that cap in 2024, and it will remain until 2055. We all know with inflation it is not going to be worth $375 million in 2055. It is capped.

All I am saying and all Senator Cassidy is saying, and I think—I don’t speak for them either—but my colleagues from the gulf-producing States—all we are saying is: Let’s be a little fair here. If you don’t have a cap onshore, let’s don’t have a cap offshore. My little old amendment would just remove that cap and make the Great American Outdoors Act the gulf-producing States.

Senator Cassidy and I and other Senators from the gulf-producing States are also working on some other ideas that I don’t feel comfortable talking about today, but we have some other ways we think we can improve the Great American Outdoors Act.

I wanted to come here today and say, once again, I am not criticizing any of my sister States. I am happy as I can be for all the States that don’t have capped royalties, that don’t get 12.5 percent of the royalties. I am just asking for a little fairness and equity, just a little bit for the gulf-producing States by allowing us to remove that cap.

With that, I either yield the floor or I suggest the absence of a quorum, whichever the Parliamentarian tells me to do.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PROTESTS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the week, our Nation has been engulfed by protests in dozens of cities over the senseless murder of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at the hands of police officers. Americans are angry, frustrated, and grieving, not just for Mr. Floyd’s and Ms. Taylor’s deaths but for centuries of injustice and brutality against African Americans. The instances are too numerous to count. Yet these instances of violence keep happening while meaningful reforms have not taken place.

The protests are set against the backdrop of the deadly novel coronavirus pandemic. As our country copes with this crisis, African-American communities have suffered disproportionately high infection and death rates. Compounding this tragedy, we are in the midst of an economic downturn that rivals the Great Depression, with communities of color bearing the brunt of the economic fallout.

Millions of hard-working Americans have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. They are struggling to provide for their families, put food on their table, and keep a roof over their head.
These protests are not isolated. They are taking place in every State in the Nation and in many other countries. Protesters are of every race and ethnicity and run the gamut in age from high school and college students to parents and grandparents. The people participating represent the diversity that is the strength of America.

The overwhelming majority of these protests are emotional but nonviolent. They embrace a fundamental tenant of civil right which is the American right and tradition of peacefully protesting to make their voices heard and to rectify injustice.

On the fringes of these peaceful protests, there are opportunists who are sowing mistrust and division. Their primary goal is to loot and destroy property, that cause chaos that puts innocent lives in harm’s way. Let me state clearly, theft and looting are a crime. They are unacceptable and undermine the powerful message of thousands demanding justice and change. They offer an easy way out to those who would rather turn away from this challenge of justice and simply indulge in their own petty objectives of violence and destruction.

Our Nation is in pain. We need leaders who bring calm, unity, empathy, and aid. Instead, our Nation has a President who treats it as a field of war. He does not even attempt to bring people together to listen to others, or to accept the reality that leaders in a democracy are neither infallible nor omnipotent.

In a tweet on May 30, President Trump said:

Mayor Jacob Frey of Minneapolis will never be mistaken for the late, great Douglas MacArthur or great fighter General George Patton. . . . Get tough and fight.

In a call with our Nation’s Governors, Secretary of Defense Esper said: “I wonder that those who I thought were on the fringes and dominate the battlefield, the quicker this dissipates and we can get back to the right normal.”

These are American city streets that we are talking about, filled with Americans exercising their rights, not battefields filled with the enemy.

Then, in a statement in the White House Rose Garden on June 1, President Trump said: “If a city or a state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to protect the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them.” America learned shortly thereafter what actions the President was prepared to take. The U.S. Park Police and others near Lafayette Park used tear gas, flash-bang grenades, and rubber bullets to aggressively push back a peaceful crowd 30 minutes before the DC curfew went into effect.

Why was this action undertaken? It wasn’t to protect the outside St. John’s Church and offer a prayer for George Floyd, his family, or the countless other Americans who have been victims of police brutality. It wasn’t to reflect on the pain and division that is rife within our country and contemplate what actions he could take to heal our Nation, like President Lincoln often did during the Civil War. The President crossed a street, aggressively cleared of peaceful protesters that seemed to mean to say he was strong, and he was in charge. Unfortunately, for him, it had the opposite effect.

President Trump’s rhetoric and some of the responses that occurred are not ones that many of us ever thought we would see on American streets or hear from an American President. They are words and actions that violate the democratic norms our Nation has stood for and American servicemembers have died for.

While the President does have the authority to call up military personnel under the Insurrection Act, it does not mean he should. It was last invoked in 1992 when California Governor Pete Wilson requested Federal military assistance from President George Herbert Bush to deal with the L.A. riots following the acquittal of police officers for the beating of Rodney King. Before that instance, the act was invoked in the 1950s and 1960s to enforce civil rights laws and end segregation in the South.

The Insurrection Act serves as an exception to posse comitatus and to the broad principle embedded deeply in American democracy and history that the Active Armed Forces should not be used to enforce State laws or to exercise police power reserved to the States unless absolutely necessary as a last resort. The act is, by design and tradition, rarely invoked.

The Insurrection Act envisions that, when law enforcement resources are used to supplement State police forces to enforce State laws, they do so only at the request of the Governor or legislature, which is ultimately responsible for the execution of the laws within the States. In the present moment, I am not aware of any Governor or legislature calling for the Federal Government to step in and take control. Put simply, if they need help, I have no doubt they will ask for it.

The President’s ability to invoke the Insurrection Act without the Governor or State legislature requesting assistance rests on the need to enforce or protect Federal law, which is not the case here. If President Trump were to invoke the Insurrection Act today, absent a request from a State, it would only be to further his own political interests. He would be using Active military forces as a political and propaganda tool in contravention of everything our military stands for.

Using the Insurrection Act on a whim risks politicizing the military. The military’s mission is to defend and serve the Constitution and the American people regardless of who is in office. Bringing the military into domestic politics risks a rupture in the sacred trust between the civilian and military leadership and undermines fundamental American values.

As former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff GEN Martin Dempsey stated shortly after the 2016 Presidential conventions, “If senior military leaders—active and retired—begin to identify as media commentators, then it is the inherent tension built into our system of government between the executive branch and the legislative branch will bleed over into suspicion of military leaders by Congress and a further erosion of civil-military relations.”

Over the last few years, that erosion has increased steadily as recent events have made eminently clear. This erosion is a toxic force that will undermine one of the most essential ethics of the American military. Soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coastguardsmen serve the Constitution, not the President. That is the oath many of us took as young men. That is the oath that defines the military of the United States, unlike many other countries, fortunately, for us.

According to press reports, Secretary of Defense Esper told senior military leaders to “stay apolitical and avoid these turbulent days,” but I would urge Secretry Esper to heed his own advice. Traditionally, the Secretary of Defense, while a Cabinet member and appointed by the President, has taken a nonpartisan stand—far from campaign events and avoiding even the potential of a political photo op. As General Milley discovered Monday evening, once the civilian leader of the military joins the political fray, it is difficult for the military to stay neutral.

Our Nation is in crisis, but it is not a crisis that can or should be solved by American military force against its own citizens. I think that any young man or woman who took the oath to join the forces of the United States—whatever branch—was he or she doing it to go fight Americans, they would answer no. He or she is doing everything they can to protect Americans, to protect the system of government, and, ultimately, the Constitution. That is the oath we take.

The strength of this Nation and of the great American experiment in representative democracy lies beyond our military strength. It goes to our civil traditions, our Constitution, our sense of civic responsibility, and our ability to constantly evolve and improve ourselves even from our earliest mistakes. We need leaders who will listen and commit to change and then implement that change. We need leaders who will not exacerbate the problem but will seek to solve it and bring people together as President Lincoln and President Wilson did to end segregation in our Nation and in many other countries.

June 3, 2020
am afraid the tumult will continue. It is my fervent hope that this Nation finds a way to peace soon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, back in March, as the coronavirus pandemic began to grip our country, the Senate's historic CARES Act set up the Paycheck Protection Program to help protect American workers from layoffs during the crisis.

Thanks especially to its chief architect, Senator Rubio and SenatorCollins, literally saved tens of millions of American jobs. Our colleagues' bold policy has meant the mailboxes of working families in all 50 States have continued to bring people their regular paychecks instead of pink slips.

Through the end of May, this remarkable program has delivered more than half a trillion dollars to keep American workers on payroll all across our country.

A recent survey found that more than three-quarters—three-quarters—of all small business owners have applied for a PPP loan and more than 90 percent of those applicants have received one.

The Senate has always committed to standing behind this popular program. Back in April when it ran low on funds, we worked together to add more resources, and today we are passing another piece of legislation that makes a few targeted changes to the program.

To help workers and small businesses through these lengthy shutdowns that are just now beginning to ease, we are increasing the loan forgiveness period from 8 weeks to 6 months.

Since keeping workers on payroll obviously requires small businesses to stay afloat in the first place, we are expanding firms' ability to use these funds to meet obligations like their rent, their mortgage, or their utility bills, but we maintain the overall requirement to avoid layoffs to keep the strong protection for workers in place.

And we are providing payroll tax deferment for the small businesses involved.

This is a bipartisan bill that passed the House overwhelmingly. I am proud the Senate is sending it on to the President's desk to become law.

I want to thank Senator Collins and Senator Rubio once more for their leadership in authoring this historic program in the first place. They have kept right on with their essential leadership, carefully monitoring the policy as it has taken effect.

I know they have identified further technical fixes in addition to the issues we are addressing today, and I hope and anticipate the full Congress will look at addressing those as well in the future.

I also want to thank Senator Daines, Senator Tillis, and Senator Gardner for their hard work on these modifications.

The Senate delivered for workers and small businesses when we first passed the CARES Act. We delivered again when we added more money to this popular program in April, and we are delivering again today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this is a very good day because very much needed improvements to the PPP program will now pass the Senate as they passed the House, 417 to 1. The PPP program is desperately needed by small business, and it was not in the original proposal of our Republican friends or of the President. We worked very hard and push hard to get this done, and I want to salute Senators Cardin and Shaheen for their efforts.

The program was not at all perfect. When it first rolled out, too many of the big shots got money and not enough of the small businesses—the mom and pop, the butcher, baker, and candlestick maker. And nonprofits were not entitled. I pushed very hard to get nonprofits, including church-related nonprofits, religious-related nonprofits, in the bill. They can now benefit from the bill just like the small businesses can.

We Democrats said, there has to be some money set aside—not just to give more money in COVID 3.5—to the existing businesses that had connections with bankers but to the smaller businesses, those that were set aside. That was a very good thing. Now it has changed from a program that has gone mainly to those that had good connections to bankers that were well connected to many smaller businesses as well.

In the second round, States that really needed the help got a greater percentage of the help, like my State of New York. So this program has been one that Democrats have been, initially, very positive about and helped propose and write but constantly worked on improving to make it better, better, and better. That improvement continues today. The House Democrats put together a bill that would deal with the kinds of problems we are continuing.

Eight weeks is running out soon. Yet small businesses may not get all the money—may not be able to use the money when the program runs out, and extending it to 24 weeks is vital. In many States, like mine in New York, small businesses could go from their PPP loans to OTPS expenses, other than personnel expenses. That wasn’t enough. A lot of businesses didn’t want to apply.

This bill moves it up to 40. Our Republican friends had resisted that. I am glad now they have seen the light.

You will have the loan—if you go to convert your loans and get them forgiven, it will be 5 years that you have to pay back. Not 2. Lots of small businesses said they weren’t able to pay them back in 2. These are among the most important changes in the bill, as well as some others.

I am glad our Republican friends have relented and passed the bill here and we are about to close session for this week. It passed the House. We Democrats have been pushing to get it done. For the last 3 days, there were some problems on the other side, and I am glad they have been worked out. I want to thank Senator Johnson. He had problems, but we talked on the phone repeatedly and worked those problems out with the help of Senator Cardin. And this is an improvement that is much needed and comes at the last minute but not too late. So many businesses have 8 weeks—8 weeks—will expire soon, and now it is extended to 24 weeks.

So I am glad this bill passes. I am glad we can do it by unanimous consent. We Democrats are fully in support of this, every Democrat. We have problems moving it forward. I know it will help a lot of small businesses.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7000, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7010) to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to modify certain provisions related to the forgiveness of loans under the paycheck protection program, to allow recipients of loan forgiveness under the paycheck protection program to defer payroll taxes, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I appreciate the good faith efforts of Senator Johnson to make sure the terms of the program and its legislative intent are properly understood. In addition, I commend his leadership in looking at the program overall, and making suggestions about reforms should Congress determine that additional money is needed in the future for the program. The program was designed intentionally to get money into the hands of small businesses quickly as government took the extraordinary and unprecedented step of shutting down the economy because of the pandemic. However, should we need to replenish the fund, he is absolutely correct that we should ensure that money
flows to small businesses and enterprises that truly need it. I look forward to working with him and our colleagues on reforms to the program should Congress make the decision to extend it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill I sent to the desk be printed in the Record.

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

CONGRESSIONAL INTENT FOR H.R. 7010

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, would like to clarify the congressional intent for H.R. 7010, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was authorized by Congress under the CARES Act as a short-term, temporary solution to help small businesses make ends meet and continue to pay their employees during the initial shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the CARES Act, authorized funds for the program are set to expire on June 30, 2020, allowing for no new loans to be issued after this date.

H.R. 7010 amends the CARES Act to provide businesses with greater flexibility for their use of PPP loans. Section 3(a) of H.R. 7010 changes the definition of the “covered period” defined by section 1102(a) of the CARES Act to be from February 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020 instead of from February 15, 2020 to June 30, 2020, as under current law.

We wish to clarify the congressional intent of this extension of the covered period to December 31, 2020, and our expectations about how the amended program will operate.

The CARES Act requires that PPP loans may only be spent on allowable uses during the covered period. In addition to the uses otherwise allowed under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act, the CARES Act authorizes as allowable uses “payroll costs; costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums; employee salaries, commissions, or similar compensations; payments of interest on any mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of or payment of principal of a mortgage obligation); rent (including rent under a lease agreement); utilities; and interest on any other debt obligations that were incurred before the covered period.” The intention of the extension of the covered period in H.R. 7010 is to allow borrowers who received PPP loans before June 30, 2020 to continue to make expenditures for allowable uses until December 31, 2020. The extension of the covered period does not authorize the Small Business Administration (SBA) to issue any new PPP loans after June 30, 2020, as this date remains fixed by section 1102(b) of the CARES Act.

The extension of the covered period defined in section 1102(a) of the CARES Act should not be construed as to permit the SBA to continue accepting applications for loans after June 30, 2020. Our intent and understanding of the law is that, consistent with the CARES Act as amended by H.R. 7010, when the authorization of funds to guarantee new PPP loans expires on June 30, 2020, the SBA and participating lenders will stop accepting and approving applications for PPP loans, regardless of whether the commitment level enacted by the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act has been reached.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNEL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 7010) was passed.

Mr. McCONNEL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the Pack nomination ripen at 11:40 a.m. tomorrow, with 20 minutes of debate under the control of Senator Menendez prior to the vote; I further ask that if cloture is invoked on the Pack nomination, the postcloture time expire at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow; finally, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

TRIBUTE TO PIA CORONA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are so many critical jobs that go on around the Capitol that may not always get the spotlight or appreciation they deserve.

Today, I would like to mention one such amazing person, Pia Corona, or as she is affectionately known, Ms. Pia.

You see, Pia is a teacher at the Senate Employees Childcare Center, a caring, nurturing, and deeply special component of the Senate community.

Six years ago, on the 30th anniversary of the center, then-Senator Tom Harkin described the teachers and administrators at the center as, “some of the unsung heroes of the Senate.”

I couldn’t agree more, and it is a privilege to pay special tribute today to one of those unsung heroes.

This month marks Pia’s 25 year anniversary teaching at the center, a monumental accomplishment that has allowed her the opportunity to have a lasting impact on countless young lives.

A number of children of my staff were fortunate to have Ms. Pia as a teacher and cannot say enough wonderful things about her, so much so that they still keep in touch and bring their children by to visit years after leaving the center. Elle, Oliver and Leo, just three of many examples, still recognize Ms. Pia as an impactful figure in their early lives and in their education.

Pia, a stalwart New York Yankees fan, started at the Senate Employees Childcare Center in May 1995, always working in the pre-kindergarten class to help children prepare for the big jump to elementary school kindergarten. Over the last two and half decades, she taught more than 400 children, including many siblings.

Ms. Pia has a unique understanding of how each child learns differently and loving ability to meet those individual needs at such a tender and formative age. Not surprisingly, she is described by her colleagues as a walking encyclopedia of knowledge on child development, and her classroom lessons and caring style reflect these incredible talents.

One of her special field trips was a walk over to the late Senator John Glenn’s office when her students were studying space. A picture of this outing still hangs at the center.

Pia also helped organize a visit to this very Senate floor for her class. They listened patiently as the Secretary of the Senate gave her own pre-K version of School House Rock. It was, without a doubt, the most well-behaved gathering that the Senate floor has seen in years.

Pia makes such an impression on children that many of her former students still reach out including one recent college graduate who wanted to say thank you all these years later. I know children of some of my staff have returned to the center to read to Ms. Pia’s students during storytime.

As we struggle with the coronavirus pandemic, we have all been reminded once again of the critical importance of our teachers and schools. Ms. Pia’s students certainly knew that was the case from their time in her class.

We all remember a teacher or two who made a lasting impact on our lives growing up—challenging us, inspiring us, nurturing us. Ms. Pia will surely be one that many remember as just such a special teacher.

I congratulate Pia Corona on her notable anniversary and deeply meaningful contribution to the Senate community. Our country and our world need good news and kindness right now. Simply put, that is Ms. Pia.
CONGRESSIONAL POWER OF THE PURSE ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the authors of our Constitution purposefully built checks and balances into the foundation of our democracy, and the power of the purse is a critical part of those checks and balances. Article I, section 9 of the Constitution states “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.” That means Congress, not the executive branch, is charged with making decisions on how to spend Federal revenue. As the vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I take this responsibility very seriously.

When Congress appropriates Federal dollars, we expect those dollars to be used as directed. We expect appropriations laws to be upheld, and we expect the administration to be transparent in its actions.

But for too many years, Presidents of both parties have encroached on the power of the purse as they have tried to expand their budgetary powers and, in some cases, substitute their judgement for that of Congress. This has been acutely true under this administration. The President has pushed the boundaries of and contorted appropriations law more than President Trump.

When Congress refused to give President Trump the money he requested for a wall on the southern border, he directed his administration to sidestep Congress and take it from funding for our military and their families. He continues to do so to this day.

The President wanted to pressure the Government of Ukraine into investigating his political rival, so he withheld security money for Ukraine in violation of the Impoundment Control Act. An action that would eventually lead to his impeachment.

Last year, the administration asserted that it had the power to propose rescissions in the last quarter of the fiscal year and further asserted it had the power to allow the funds to lapse if Congress did not act on its proposal, essentially claiming the executive branch, not Congress, had the last word on spending. The Government Accountability Office, GAO, thankfully and rightfully, disagreed. Last year, this administration also overturned a long held precedent that it had the power to propose rescissions in the last quarter of the fiscal year and further asserted it had the power to allow the funds to lapse if Congress did not act on its proposal, essentially claiming the executive branch, not Congress, had the last word on spending.

The push and pull over the power of the purse between Congress and the executive branch did not start with President Trump and will not end when he is no longer in office. Administrations of both parties have clashed with Congress over this authority. But the actions of this President make clear that Congress needs to reassert itself and defend its constitutionally granted prerogatives. This should not be a partisan issue. The Founders chose to vest the power of the purse with Congress. It is an important part of our system of checks and balances, and we must defend it.

That is why I am introducing the Congressional Power of the Purse Act. This bill will restore Congress’s central role in funding decisions, increase transparency in the executive branch, and add teeth to existing budget laws.

The bill strengthens the Impoundment Control Act, including the addition of penalties for failure to comply. The bill strengthens administration reporting requirements and congressional oversight tools, so Congress can better follow the money and ensure the law is being complied with. Finally, the bill reforms the National Emergencies Act of 1974 to provide more Congressional control over these designations and how they are used. I hope all members can support it.

I commend Representative LOWEY and Representative YARMUTH for introducing a similar bill in the House, and I hope that the House will send the bill to the Senate in July.

I ask the President to present that the following members be listed as original cosponsors: Senators MURRAY, VAN HOLLEN, FEINSTEIN, COONS, BALDWIN, WYDEN, MERKLEY, WHITEHOUSE, SCHultz, SANDERS, SHAHEEN, Tester, Udall, Cardin, Reed, DURBIN, Murphy, and MANCINN. I would note that this list of cosponsors includes every Democratic Member of the Appropriations Committee.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I was absent when the Senate voted on vote No. 104 to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 655. Victor G. Mercado, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vote No. 105 to confirm Mr. Mercado, vote No. 106 to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 652, Brian D. Miller, of Virginia, to be a Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery, and vote No. 107 to confirm Mr. Miller. On votes Nos. 104 and 105, had I been present, I would have voted yes to invoke cloture and confirm Mr. Mercado. On votes Nos. 106 and 107, had I present, I would have voted no on the motion to invoke cloture and confirm Mr. Miller.

Mr. President, I was absent when the Senate voted on vote No. 108 to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 656, James H. Anderson, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. On vote No. 109, had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to confirm Mr. Anderson.

DEFENSE NOMINATIONS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, after Monday’s shameful display by the Secretary of Defense, I voted against the President’s nominees to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities.

The language of war has no place on American streets in the face of peaceful protests. Secretary Esper’s dangerous comment that the military needs to “dominate the battlespace”—referring to American cities—threatened the lives of American citizens exercising their constitutional rights. His willingness to accompany the President to a photo-op after gassing peaceful protesters underscores the moral rot in the Department’s leadership.

At this time, I have lost confidence that any nominee can be trusted to stand up to the President’s attempts to weaponize the Defense Department for his personal and political ends. For that reason, I voted against his nominees in the Department.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to mark the start of LGBT Pride Month with reflections on the recent International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia—IDAHOBIT. For more than 50 years, Pride Month has been a reminder that, despite recent progress, every day, millions of people around the world face social stigmatization, legal prosecution, and even violence based on their sexual orientation or because of their gender identity. COVID–19 is necessitating adjustments to how this month is celebrated, with organizers moving large-scale parades from the streets of towns and cities to the internet, where a 24-hour online Global Pride celebration is planned for later this month.

Two short weeks ago was the annual commemoration of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia
and Biphobia—IDAHOBIT. Started on May 17, 2004, IDAHOBIT was established by LGBTQ activists in 2004 to commemorate the World Health Organization’s historic decision in 1990 to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases. As in the United States, despite the progress we have made since 1990, around the world, homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia continue to flourish in many parts of the world.

This year’s International Human Rights Day marked commemorations of the United States’ 95th birthday and wish him many more years of health and happiness. Department. I congratulate him on his 69 years of service on the Hatton Volunteer Fire Department in 1951 and has served ever since. Art turned 95 on May 19 and was honored by his fellow firefighters and community residents with a surprise drive-by parade past his home. It appropriately included several fire trucks.

His time in the department has included being the fire chief for 6 years and assistant fire chief for another 3 years. When Art stopped responding to fire calls, he could be found standing on the highway directing vehicles to the location of a fire. Art still attends firefighter functions such as meetings and conventions, and on a recent visit to the Office of the President of the Senate on June 1, 2020, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

This type of discrimination has only been compounded by the global outbreak of COVID-19. In addition to the widespread economic hardship that this pandemic is creating, it is producing new risks and forms of persecution for the LGBTQ community.

In Uganda, security forces stormed an LGBTQ shelter, binding the occupants’ hands with rope before marching them to a nearby police station on charges of disobeying social distancing rules. In Latin America, transgender, nonbinary, and queer people who present as gender-nonconforming can be detained or fined for going to the grocery store on days designated by the government as “men-only” or “women-only.” Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has used the pandemic as an excuse to move legislation that will ban the legal recognition of transgender citizens. Meanwhile, in South Korea, there is a disturbing rise in online hate speech blaming the LGBTQ community for spreading the coronavirus. A number of retired military leaders around the world have cruelly attributed the spread of COVID-19 to divine retribution for recognition of LGBTQ people in other countries. It is said that you can measure the strength of a democracy by the rights it affords to marginalized communities. These actions do not reflect the strong democracy that we strive to build.

In Uganda, security forces stormed an LGBTQ shelter, binding the occupants’ hands with rope before marching them to a nearby police station on charges of disobeying social distancing rules. In Latin America, transgender, nonbinary, and queer people who present as gender-nonconforming can be detained or fined for going to the grocery store on days designated by the government as “men-only” or “women-only.” Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has used the pandemic as an excuse to move legislation that will ban the legal recognition of transgender citizens. Meanwhile, in South Korea, there is a disturbing rise in online hate speech blaming the LGBTQ community for spreading the coronavirus. A number of retired military leaders around the world have cruelly attributed the spread of COVID-19 to divine retribution for recognition of LGBTQ people in other countries. It is said that you can measure the strength of a democracy by the rights it affords to marginalized communities. These actions do not reflect the strong democracy that we strive to build.

Looking at the state of the world today, it is clear that we need more champions for LGBTQ rights on the international stage. We need more leaders to break the silence and speak up for everyone’s right to live truly as the person they are. I am hopeful that the United States will once again be one of those voices. For my part, I will keep fighting to protect LGBTQ rights at home and around the globe, so that all people can pursue happiness and love without fear.

Within the United States, the Trump administration has issued rules sanctioning employment, housing, medical, and other forms of discrimination based on gender identity. It has also repeatedly used religious liberty as a shield to enable discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. On a global scale, the administration has attempted to undermine internationally recognized definitions of human rights through the U.S. State Department’s Commission on Intangible Rights and turned a blind eye to the persecution of LGBTQ people in other countries. It is said that you can measure the strength of a democracy by the rights it affords to marginalized communities. These actions do not reflect the strong democracy that we strive to build.

Looking at the state of the world today, it is clear that we need more champions for LGBTQ rights on the international stage. We need more leaders to break the silence and speak up for everyone’s right to live truly as the person they are. I am hopeful that the United States will once again be one of those voices. For my part, I will keep fighting to protect LGBTQ rights at home and around the globe, so that all people can pursue happiness and love without fear.

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–6448. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Charles D. Lacks from the Army Reserve, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6438. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral James G. Foggo III, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6436. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6461. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6462. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13336 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6464. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6465. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Belarus that was declared in Executive Order 13465 of June 16, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6466. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Director, Shareholder, and Member Meetings” (RIN1557–AE94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 1, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:
EC-4675. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary Changes to Requirements Affecting H-2B Nonimmigrants due to the COVID-19 National Emergency” (RIN 0645–AC55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 28, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4676. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary Changes to Requirements Affecting H-2B Nonimmigrants due to the COVID-19 National Emergency” (RIN 0645–AC58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 28, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4677. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule” (FRL No. 10006–95–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4684. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Clean Air Plans; 2008 6-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements; Phoenix, Arizona” (FRL No. 10009–19–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4685. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Louisiana; Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference” (FRL No. 10008–86–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4686. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Integrated and Regional Risk Assessment of Residual Risk and Technology Review” (FRL No. 10008–45–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4687. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Update to the General SIP and New Source Review Permitting Requirements; Correction” (FRL No. 10009–95–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4688. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Nevada; Recent Amendments to the Environmental Quality Implementation Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Mexico and Alburquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Control of Emissions from Existing National Fugitive Dust Control Units” (FRL No. 10006–30–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4693. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Quality Plans; Florida; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 10007–94–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4694. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Mexico and Alburquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Control of Emissions from Existing National Fugitive Dust Control Units” (FRL No. 10006–30–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4695. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Mexico and Alburquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Control of Emissions from Existing National Fugitive Dust Control Units” (FRL No. 10006–30–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4696. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Mexico and Alburquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Control of Emissions from Existing National Fugitive Dust Control Units” (FRL No. 10006–30–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4697. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Mexico and Alburquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Control of Emissions from Existing National Fugitive Dust Control Units” (FRL No. 10006–30–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

EC-4691. A resolution supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and regional stability.
By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3871. A bill to facilitate the performance of the United States' obligations under the South Pacific Regional Environmental Assembly, South Pacific Forum, and the South Pacific Regional Conference on Nuclear-free Zone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 3871. A bill to facilitate the performance of the United States' obligations under the South Pacific Regional Environmental Assembly, South Pacific Forum, and the South Pacific Regional Conference on Nuclear-free Zone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 3873. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. BERNSTEIN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3873. A bill to require law enforcement agencies to report the use of lethal force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. Kaine, Ms. RISEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. JONES):

S. 3874. A bill making additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3875. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide bonuses for companies that provide company-shared family leave for all employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCAR, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3877. A bill to establish or expand programs to improve health equity regarding COVID-19 and reduce or eliminate inequities in the prevalence and health outcomes of COVID-19; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3878. A bill to protect employees from discrimination based on family caregiver responsibilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3879. A bill to preserve the Constitution, to establish an independent commission to conduct a full and fair review of the 2020 election in all States, to ensure the integrity of the election, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. COONS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3880. A bill to establish the Office of International Disability Rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 3881. A bill to increase support for State Children's Health Insurance programs during the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

* Sethuraman Panchanathan, of Arizona, to be Director of the National Science Foundation for a term of six years.

By Mr. GIROUARD for the Committee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies:

* Keith E. Sonderling, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 26, 2025.

* Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 26, 2025.

* Lauren McGrail McCarron, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 26, 2025.

* Richard Giacolone, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor.

* Andrea R. Lucas, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

* Julie Elizabeth Hocker, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the National Science Foundation for a term of six years.

* Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 26, 2025.

* Patricia H. Murray, of Nebraska, to be Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 26, 2025.

* Richard Giacolone, of Virginia, to be Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 26, 2025.

* Zachary Potter, of California, to be Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 26, 2025.

* Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 26, 2025.

* Merit M. Zemskow, of Virginia, to be Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 26, 2025.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCAR, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3882. A bill to establish or expand programs to improve health equity regarding COVID-19 and reduce or eliminate inequities in the prevalence and health outcomes of COVID-19; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3883. A bill to protect employees from discrimination based on family caregiver responsibilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mrs. HAYDEN):

S. 3869. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the expansion of the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, to expand the Cyber Institutes Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

S. 3870. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to recommend a minimum number of bomber aircraft; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 38. A resolution recommending that the United States work with its allies and partners in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

S. Res. 386. A resolution calling for the immediate release of Cuban democracy activist Jose Daniel Ferrer and condemning the efforts of Jose Daniel Ferrer to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba.

S. Res. 406. A resolution recognizing that for 50 years, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten members, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, have worked with the United States toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia, and expressing the Senate that the United States will continue to remain a strong, reliable, and active partner in the ASEAN region.

S. Res. 452. A resolution calling for the immediate release of Cuban democracy activist Jose Daniel Ferrer and condemning the efforts of Jose Daniel Ferrer to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba.

S. Res. 502. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the amphibious landing on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II and the raising of the flag of the United States on Mount Suribachi.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments and with a preamble:

S. Res. 511. A resolution supporting the role of the United States in helping save the lives of children and protecting the health of people in developing countries with vaccines and immunization through GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.

S. Res. 525. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should continue to support the people of Nicaragua in their peaceful efforts to promote the restoration of democracy and the defense of human rights, and use the tools under United States law to increase political and economic pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 533. A resolution supporting the goals of International Women’s Day.

S. Res. 541. A resolution supporting the war veterans of the Dachau concentration camp during World War II.
By Mr. ROUNDS:
S. 3882. A bill to establish the National Technology Industrial Base Quadrilateral Council; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):
S. 3883. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the earned income tax credit available to residents of possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MARKEY):
S. 3884. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to support the efforts of State and local governments to provide for priority testing of certain transportation workers with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) and require the owners and operators of equipment and facilities used by passenger or freight transportation employers to clean, disinfect, and sanitize that equipment and provide personal protective equipment to certain employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):
S. 3888. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify Congress regularly of reported cases of burn pit exposure by veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. PELOSI, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARNEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Ms. RYAN):
S. 3886. A bill to prohibit the use of funds for an explosive nuclear weapons test; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:
S. 3887. A bill to defer action regarding certain debts arising from benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a period of time including the COVID–19 emergency period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:
S. 3888. A bill to ensure that veterans receive timely and effective health care under the Veterans Health Care Reform and Veterans Care Agreements during the COVID–19 emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS
The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. DURBIN):
S. Res. 604. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Senate should not vote on the nomination of Michael Pack to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media unless and until he corrects his false statements to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PAUL:
S. Res. 605. A resolution providing for sufficient time for legislation to be read; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HOBVEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. UDALL, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. RISCH):
S. Res. 606. A resolution designating May 5, 2020, as the ‘‘National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls’’; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS
S. 525
At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 525, a bill to protect the right to the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 633
At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women’s Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the ‘‘Six Triple Eight’’.

S. 815
At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 892
At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 892, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other materials to win the war, that were referred to as ‘‘Rosie the Riveters’’. The recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

S. 892
At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 892, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax-exempt financing of certain government-owned buildings.

S. 948
At the request of Ms. KLOBuchar, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 948, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1200
At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1652
At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSENFELD) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1652, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 1919
At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1919, a bill to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track discriminatory land use policies, and for other purposes.

S. 1938
At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBuchar) were added as cosponsors of S. 1938, a bill to provide for grants for States that require fair and impartial police training for law enforcement officers of that State and to incentivize States to enact laws requiring the independent investigation and prosecution of the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 2161
At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2161, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for reciprocal marketing approval of certain drugs, biological products, and devices that are authorized to be lawfully marketed abroad, and for other purposes.

S. 2163
At the request of Mr. RUHOL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) and added as cosponsors of S. 2163, a bill to establish the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, to study and make recommendations to address social problems affecting Black men and boys, and for other purposes.

S. 2207
At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added
as cosponsors of S. 2327, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for transfer of unused entitlement to Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under holocaust-era insurance policies.

S. 2733

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2733, a bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government.

S. 3003

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAWLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3003, a bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies when requesting or ordering a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes.

S. 3221

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3221, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program.

S. 3221

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3221, a bill to place a moratorium on large concentrated animal feeding operations, to strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to require country of origin labeling on beef, pork, and dairy products, and for other purposes.

S. 3455

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHUETZ), the Senator from California (Ms. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3455, a bill to expand the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to expand revenue sharing for offshore wind, to reauthorize the National Oceans and Coastal Security Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3597

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3597, a bill to appropriate funds for the SPR Petroleum Account.

S. 3601

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3601, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to reduce certain royalties, to amend the CARES Act to limit the provision of assistance to certain businesses, to include on certain oil and natural gas lease sales, the issuance of coal leases, and modifications to certain regulations, to extend certain public comment periods, and for other purposes.

S. 3612

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3612, a bill to clarify for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that receipt of coronavirus assistance does not affect the tax treatment of ordinary business expenses.

S. 3639

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3639, a bill to provide State and local workforce and career and technical education systems the support to respond to the COVID–19 national emergency.

S. 3660

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3660, a bill to provide emergency funding for caseworkers and child protective services.

S. 3703

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3703, a bill to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the protection of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

S. 3750

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3750, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the accelerated and advance payment programs under parts A and B of the Medicare program during the COVID-19 emergency.

S. 3753

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3753, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs have physical locations for the disposal of controlled substances medications.

S. 3755

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3755, a bill to provide for the establishment of a COVID–19 Compensation Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 3756

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3756, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a renewable fuel feedstock reimbursement program.

S. 3763

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STabenow), and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Cortez Masto) were added as cosponsors of S. 3763, a bill to establish the Pandemic Responder Service Award program to express our gratitude to front-line health care workers.

S. 3861

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3861, a bill to establish privacy requirements for operators of infectious disease exposure notification services.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 604—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE SENATE SHOULD NOT VOTE ON THE NOMINATION OF MICHAEL PACK TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA UNLESS AND UNTIL MICHAEL PACK CORRECTS HIS FALSE STATEMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE SENATE AND THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 604

Whereas the Constitution of the United States requires, and the people of the United States expect and deserve, that the Senate provide advice and consent only to those executive branch nominees who are fit to hold positions of public trust in the United States Government;

Whereas Michael Pack is the nominee to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media, which is
SENATE RESOLUTION 606—DESIGNATING MAY 5, 2020, AS THE ‘‘NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS’’

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. Tester, Mr. Hoeven, Ms. Warren, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Udall, Mr. Crapo, Ms. McSally, Ms. Murkowski, and Mr. Risch) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 5, 2020, as the ‘‘National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls’’; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups—
(A) to commemorate the lives of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women whose cases are documented and undocumented in public records and the media; and
(B) to demonstrate solidarity with the families of victims in light of those tragedies.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEED

I, Senator Ron Wyden, intend to object to proceeding to S. 482, a bill to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to combat international cybercrime, and to impose additional sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, dated June 3, 2020 for the reasons as stated in the RECORD.

Mr. Wyden. Mr. President, I rise today to give notice of my intent to object to any unanimous consent agreement regarding S. 482, the Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act.

I want to start by making myself clear: I support the vast majority of the provisions in this bill. It has now crossed three years since Russia meddled in our last presidential election, and Congress has yet to hold Vladimir Putin accountable for it. I commend the bill’s sponsors for coming together, on a bipartisan basis, with legislation that would take real steps to address Moscow’s aggression.

Unfortunately, the bill is burdened by one extremely problematic, unrelated section, Title IV, or what was previously known as the International Relations bill. This is now the fourth time my colleagues have attempted to jam that bill through this very chamber. In fact, the same exact language was first floated in 2015, only to be defeated. It was brought up again in 2016, was, again, defeated. Once more, in 2018, this bill was introduced as a standalone bill and, again, defeated.

The authors of this problematic legislation are giving it one more try, this time by attempting to bury it within a largely unrelated 100-page, bipartisan legislative vehicle. And, by adding this language onto an extraneous foreign relations bill, my colleagues have attempted to bypass the judicial scrutiny of the Senate Judiciary Committee altogether.

Title IV of the bill is, at best, an extremely misguided piece of legislation. While its proponents claim the language is meant to fight botnets and other malicious cybercrime in a limited context, its effects would be far more broad-reaching. What this bill would do, in reality, is significantly expand the badly outdated Computer Fraud and Abuse Act—a law that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has time and time again abused against cybersecurity researchers and activists, including the late Aaron Swartz.

Mr. President, advocates and legal experts have long warned that the CFAA chills legitimate speech and research. DOJ has adopted an interpretation of the CFAA so extreme that it has resulted in federal prosecutions it is illegal merely for someone to violate a website’s terms of service, such as by lying about their height, weight, or age in an online dating profile. While I take a back seat to no one when it comes to protecting our citizens from hackers and improving our nation’s cybersecurity, DOJ has stretched this Reagan-era hacking law to absurdity.

The last time the International Cybercrime Prevention Act was proposed in this chamber, I voted against it because I believed then, as I do now, that the draconian CFAA must be modernized. I have sought to reform the
CFAA, and rather than addressing its many serious flaws, Title IV of DASKA expands it, creating broad new prohibitions and harsh penalties.

Mr. President, I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again. The bill before us is a resoundingly good bill—but it is one that is held back by one small and unrelated section. My hope is that, working in a bipartisan way, we can resolve this glaring problem with DASKA. However, until that happens, I will object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to the legislation.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. Sasse. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Donald L. Moak and William Zollars to be Governmental Affairs Judges, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS
The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate resolve S. Res. 606, submitted earlier today, be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s Record under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, June 4; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Pack nomination, under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:08 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 4, 2020, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 03, 2020:

THE JUDICIARY
DREW R. TIPTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JAMES R. ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 8

2:30 p.m. Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

SR–232A

4 p.m. Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

SR–232A

JUNE 9

9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

SR–232A

10 a.m. Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine housing regulators.

SD–G50

11 a.m. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine wildfire management in the midst of the COVID–19 pandemic.

SD–366

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Federal government’s procurement and distribution strategies in response to the COVID–19 pandemic.

VTC

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine COVID–19 fraud, focusing on law enforcement’s response to those exploiting the pandemic.

SD–106

2 p.m. Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

SR–232A

2:30 p.m. Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine unemploy- ment insurance during COVID–19, focusing on The CARES Act and the roles of unemployment insurance during the pandemic.

SD–106

3:30 p.m. Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

SR–232A

5:30 p.m. Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

SR–232A

JUNE 10

9 a.m. Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Donald Lee Moak, of Florida, and William Zollars, of Kansas, both to be a Governor, United States Postal Service, Craig Edward Leen, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General, Office of Personnel Management, Mark A. Robbins, Carl Ezekiel Ross, and Elizabeth J. Shapiro, all to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Catherine Bird, of Texas, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and John Chase Johnson, of Oklahoma, to be Inspector General, Federal Communications Commission.

SR–325

9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services

SD–106

10 a.m. Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine COVID–19, focusing on going back to school safely.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD–226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine implementation of Title I of the CARES Act.

SR–301

JUNE 11

9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

SD–106

JUNE 17

10 a.m. Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine telehealth, focusing on lessons learned from the COVID–19 pandemic.

SD–430

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor. Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2659–S2700

Measures Introduced: Twenty bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3869–3888, and S. Res. 604–606.

Measures Reported:

H.R. 192, to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Res. 148, supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and regional stability, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 392, recognizing the importance of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative to the relationship between the United States and the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and to advancing the policy of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 406, recognizing that for 50 years, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten members, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, have worked with the United States toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia, and expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States will continue to remain a strong, reliable, and active partner in the ASEAN region, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 454, calling for the immediate release of Cuban democracy activist Jose Daniel Ferrer and commending the efforts of Jose Daniel Ferrer to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 502, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the amphibious landing on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II and the raisings of the flag of the United States on Mount Suribachi.

S. Res. 511, supporting the role of the United States in helping save the lives of children and protecting the health of people in developing countries with vaccines and immunization through GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 523, recognizing the 199th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. Res. 525, expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should continue to support the people of Nicaragua in their peaceful efforts to promote the restoration of democracy and the defense of human rights, and use the tools under United States law to increase political and economic pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega, with amendments and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 533, supporting the goals of International Women’s Day, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 542, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp during World War II, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 567, commending career professionals at the Department of State for their extensive efforts to repatriate United States citizens and legal permanent residents during the COVID–19 pandemic.

S. 238, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 712, to provide assistance for United States citizens and nationals taken hostage or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3176, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.
Measures Passed:

**Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act:** Senate passed H.R. 7010, to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to modify certain provisions related to the forgiveness of loans under the paycheck protection program, to allow recipients of loan forgiveness under the paycheck protection program to defer payroll taxes.

**National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 606, designating May 5, 2020, as the “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls”.

Pack Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michael Pack, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, ripen at 11:40 a.m., on Thursday, June 4, 2020, with 20 minutes of debate under the control of Senator Menendez prior to the vote; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, the post-cloture time expire at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, June 4, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the nomination.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

- By 78 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. EX. 109), James H. Anderson, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

- By 74 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 108), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

- By 52 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 111), Drew B. Tipton, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

- By 53 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 110), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Executive Communications:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—111)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:08 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2020. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2700.)

**Committee Meetings**

(Committees not listed did not meet)

**NOMINATION**

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing examine the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

**COVID–19, TRANSPORTATION, AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of transportation and critical infrastructure, focusing on the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic, after receiving testimony from John Bozzella, Alliance for Automotive Innovation, Randy Guillot, American Trucking Associations, Ian N. Jefferies, Association of American Railroads, Alex Oehler, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, and Larry I. Willis, Transportation Trades Department, AFL–CIO, all of Washington, D.C.

**NOMINATIONS**

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Donald Lee Moak, of Florida, and William Zollars, of Kansas, both to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, and Mark A. Robbins, Carl Ezekiel Ross, and Elizabeth J. Shapiro, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Keith E. Sonderling, of Florida, Andrea R. Lucas, of Virginia, and Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, each to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Marvin Kaplan, of Kansas, and Lauren McGrady McFerran, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, Sethuraman Panchanathan, of Arizona, to be Director of the National Science
Foundation, Julie Elizabeth Hocker, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Richard Giacolone, of Virginia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director.

CROSSFIRE HURRICANE INVESTIGATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Crossfire Hurricane investigation, after receiving testimony from Rod J. Rosenstein, former Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice.

COVID–19 AND SMALL BUSINESS

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine COVID–19’s impact on small business, focusing on perspectives from Main Street, including S. 3782, to modify the amount authorized for commitments for 7(a) loans, S. 996, to modify the microloan program of the Small Business Administration, S. 3814, to establish a loan program for businesses affected by COVID–19 and to extend the loan forgiveness period for paycheck protection program loans made to the hardest hit businesses, and S. 3548, to provide emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, after receiving testimony from Joseph Shamess, Flags of Valor, Ashburn, Virginia; Connie Evans, Association for Enterprise Opportunity, and Michael Strain, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; and Nicholas Rudolph, Maryland Capital Enterprises, Inc., Salisbury.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2021, advance appropriations requests for fiscal year 2022, and fiscal year 2020 enacted CARES Act supplemental appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary, Richard Stone, Executive in Charge of the Veterans Health Administration, Paul Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits, and Jon Rychalski, Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, “Intelligence Authorization Act of 2021”.

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House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

Committee Meetings

ADDRESSING THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID–19: VIEWS FROM TWO FORMER CBO DIRECTORS

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Addressing the Economic Impacts of COVID–19: Views from Two Former CBO Directors”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

promoting inclusive lending during the pandemic: community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “Promoting Inclusive Lending During the Pandemic: Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE DURING THE COVID–19 PANDEMIC

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “Protecting the Right to Vote During the COVID–19 Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State, Michigan; and public witnesses.

MISSION READINESS: VA’S PREPAREDNESS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS DURING A PANDEMIC

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Mission Readiness: VA’s Preparedness for Natural Disasters During a Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from Daniel Sitterly, Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness, Department of Veterans Affairs.
Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020

Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated.

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the crisis in Hong Kong, focusing on a review of United States policy tools, 11 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine infrastructure, focusing on the road to recovery, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of J. Steven Dowd, of Florida, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Richard M. Mills, Jr., of Texas, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, and Joseph Manso, of New York, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, both of the Department of State, Jason Myung-Ik Chung, of Virginia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, Jenny A. McGee, of Texas, to be an Associate Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine COVID–19, focusing on going back to college safely, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider a motion to authorize the Chairman to issue subpoenas for records and testimony to U.S. Government agencies and to individuals relating to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Crossfire Hurricane Investigation, the DOJ Inspector General’s review of that investigation, and the “unmasking” of U.S. persons affiliated with the Trump campaign, transition teams, and Trump Administration, as described in Schedule A, 10 a.m., SR–325.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 685, to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 relative to the powers of the Department of Justice Inspector General, the nominations of Justin Reed Walker, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, and Cory T. Wilson, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, and an authorization for subpoenas relating to the Crossfire Hurricane investigation, 10 a.m., SD–106.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “COVID–19 Response”, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled, “Future Force Structure Requirements for the United States Navy”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections, hearing entitled “The Impact of COVID–19 on Voting Rights and Election Administration: Ensuring Safe and Fair Elections”, 1 p.m., Webex.
Next Meeting of the Senate

10 a.m., Thursday, June 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Michael Pack, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:40 a.m. If cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the House of Representatives

10 a.m., Thursday, June 4

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.