

I believe that peaceful protest has made it possible for a good many Members of Congress to be here. Not all of us are here because we are so smart. A good many of us are here because others made great sacrifice so that we would have these opportunities.

This is why I stand here today to say that we can peacefully protest; we can be disruptive without being destructive.

If you are being destructive, you are not helping the cause.

Peaceful protest is the best protest. It is what has made a difference for so many of us in so many ways: We have integrated facilities because of peaceful protest; labor laws have been changed because of peaceful protest; persons have the right to vote because of peaceful protest.

Peaceful protest is the best protest, and it has made a difference in the lives of a good many people in this country.

So I absolutely salute those who peacefully protest, and I do not condone those who protest otherwise.

Now, with reference to the constabulary, there have been unidentified persons, Federal agents, who have been policing the streets of American cities. They do not have the right to pick people up indiscriminately. They do not have the right to take people away and hold them and then drop them off at some location. They are not within the law when they do this, and officers of the law should not break the law. These are unidentified Federal agents, and they must be stopped. This is not the American way.

I support the law as it relates to the protestors; I support the law as it relates to the Federal agents. All should obey the law.

Now, you say to me: "Well, how is it that you went to jail?" Well, I went to jail, and I was willing to suffer the consequences. I was protesting. I was in the middle of the street, as a matter of fact, here in Washington, D.C., when I went to jail once. I was there, and I suffered my consequences.

Dr. King wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" from the Birmingham Jail.

It is disruptive action, not destructive action. This was a disruption that we created in the streets. It was a disruption that caused Dr. King to go to jail. It was not destruction.

If you destroy things, you are not within the law. Do not break the law in the sense that you are going to destroy things. Destruction is not the way to protest. Disruption is how we get it done.

And with reference to the constabulary: follow the law. We cannot have law enforcement officers breaking the law under the guise of trying to protect statues and other things from destruction. Neither of these two groups can bring about the kind of justice that we are looking for.

We are protesting now because of the brutality that many people have suf-

fered, and some have lost their lives at the hands of the constabulary.

But we are also protesting because we are being discriminated as it relates to lending. When people don't get the loans that they qualify for, their livelihoods are being stolen from them, their opportunities are being stolen from them. So we are protesting discrimination in lending.

We are protesting discrimination in hiring and promotions. There is this notion that we should have kitchen table issues discussed. Well, discrimination in hiring is a kitchen table issue. Those who believe that jobs without discrimination as a conversation is not a kitchen table issue, you are wrong. People discuss these things, and we should.

We have to make sure that every person is treated equally under the law in the United States of America.

Peaceful protest is the best protest. Law enforcement officers must follow the law.

The protestation exceeds what is happening with the constabulary. It moves into the banks; it moves into our homes; it moves into our lives.

CONGRATULATING MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some great Americans. I am here to congratulate and thank a dozen brave men and women who have committed their lives to serving our country.

Earlier this summer, 12 of my constituents and former constituents whom I am proud to have nominated for an appointment to our Nation's military academies have graduated.

It has been an incredible honor to meet these dedicated young people over the years and to support them in their pursuit of an education. Those who choose to spend their lives protecting and defending the United States are the bravest this great Nation has to offer.

Today, I would like to recognize each of the graduates whom I have previously nominated who completed their education at our Nation's military academies:

Robert Bendik of State College, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy;

Isaac Bengel of Erie, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy;

Darren Keglovits of Coudersport, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy;

Hannah Milliron of Duke Center, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy;

Alexandra Treglia of State College, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy;

Grayson Hill of North East, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy West Point;

Sarah Henderson of Indiana, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy West Point;

Sterling Pickett of Loganton, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy;

Bailey Ishler of State College, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy;

Emily Walbridge of Mill Hall, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy;

Karlee Xander of Corry, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy; and

Thomas King of Port Matilda, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

These brave men and women have bright futures ahead of them, Mr. Speaker; and as they begin their careers in our Nation's Armed Forces, I know their hard work, their dedication, and their commitment will serve them well.

I am incredibly grateful for their service, and I commend them for their bravery.

This next chapter in life will present many challenges, but also many opportunities, and I am confident that these young people will rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank these individuals for their service, and I wish them the very best of luck.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DECLARED WAR ON PORTLAND, OREGON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. I see Donald Trump's administration declaring war on my hometown of Portland, Oregon.

After failing the American people in the coronavirus, in the face of 6 months of not just weak leadership, but virtually no leadership at all, there are tens of thousands of people dying unnecessarily.

It is hard to focus on the unprecedented assault on our environmental protections that they have unleashed, but now they are declaring war on America's cities, sending in an occupying force drawn from Homeland Security, particularly the Customs and Border Protection patrol, ostensibly to protect monuments and statues.

What about protecting the American people and their constitutional right to protest?

Don't attack our people with tear gas without warning, seriously injuring people exercising their right to protest, things that people can see on video with their own eyes; watching the gentleman hit with a projectile, requiring serious surgery, inflicting facial injuries; a person just asking what was going on having officers assault him, breaking his hand.

They can't be that inept. It must be purposeful, taking a very challenging situation in my hometown and making it worse.

But make no mistake. This isn't just about Portland, Oregon.

We watched what they did in Lafayette Park across from the White House, again assaulting innocent protestors in