

Maybe it is to compensate for the fact that Democrats are responsible for the statutes having been placed in the Capitol and the times Democrats failed to act in the past. You be the judge.

**WE HAVE BEEN WARNED; NOW
WHAT DO WE DO?**

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday night, Christopher David, a veteran of the United States Navy, was walking in Portland when he came upon an odd sight: Federal agents, in full tactical gear, heavily armed, looking for all the world like the operators that we drop into terrorist havens in Afghanistan, patrolling the streets of an American city; detaining Americans; hustling them, unexplained, into rented minivans.

Now, is Mr. David a masked ninja of anarchy? No.

Was he throwing rocks or carrying bottles of gasoline? No.

Mr. David was curious, and he stood there, clearly unarmed, clearly not a threat, curious.

And here is where it gets interesting, and any American who hasn't seen the video needs to look at it right now.

A Federal agent, gas mask, body armor, camouflage, bristling with weapons and tactical gear, approaches Mr. David, winds up, and beats Mr. David repeatedly with his truncheon.

Mr. David doesn't move. His hand has been broken by a Federal agent, but he doesn't move, not a muscle.

Well, the agent is confused by this and he hesitates. But backup arrives. Another Federal agent sprays Mr. David repeatedly in the face with pepper spray. Now this is heartening to the first agent, so he winds up and hits Mr. David again with his bat.

Now, I don't care how cynical you have become about our country. I don't care whether you have signed over your time, your talent, your treasure, your integrity to the support of Donald J. Trump. If you have a drop of American blood in your veins, your soul dies a little as you watch the heavily armed Federal agent beat a United States Navy veteran.

So what are combat-ready Federal agents doing in the streets of a city which does not want them there in a State which did not ask for them?

Are there bodies piling up in the streets of Portland?

Are there 150,000 dead—just to choose a number—Americans in Portland? No. There is not a single fatality. Of course not.

Like so many cities, Portland boiled over in rage at the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. And, yeah, regretfully and illegally a minority of protestors have committed acts of vandalism; bottles and rocks have been thrown, windows broken, threats made. That is not okay, ever.

But protecting property in Portland or anywhere else is the job of the local police department, the State police and, in a worst-case scenario, the National Guard. Why?

First, while Federal agents are legally entitled to protect Federal property, they are not authorized to patrol municipal streets to enforce State and local law. That is an idea that goes back to our dissatisfaction with King George, and it is an idea that my Republican friends used to care about.

Second, operationally, agents of the Border Patrol and the Marshals Service are not trained to manage protests. They are trained to patrol borders and to chase fugitives. A heavily armed individual with no identification or insignia trundling people, without explanation, into an unmarked van is likely to be misunderstood in a way that could lead to violence, particularly in a heavily armed society.

Finally, there is the question of the President's intentions, which are pretty clear. We have seen how the President responds to real crisis; almost 150,000 Americans dead of COVID-19, denial, misinformation.

We have 5 percent of the world's population and 25 percent of the COVID-19 deaths on the planet. That is a disgrace. It is a lethal disgrace.

George Floyd, an unarmed Black American, dies at the hands of the police, like so many before him. That is a lethal crisis.

The President was asked about Black Americans dying at the hands of police and he says: "So are White people; so are White people. What a terrible question to ask."

And now the President threatens to send heavily armed Federal agents to New York, Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore. Do we have a problem? No, we do not.

Take it from an unclassified Office of Intelligence and Analysis report by the Department of Homeland Security: "The regularity of violence amidst lawful protests in Portland since 26 May contrasts with national trends, which reflect a steady decline in violence during the last 2 weeks"—"a steady decline in violence during the last 2 weeks."

Mr. Speaker, this is important because democracies die, but they don't die fast. They die because people come to believe that the media is the enemy of the people. They die because a President's supporters are more given over to that President than they are to the rule of law; and they die because citizens become used to the sight of Federal agents acting, not to protect them, but to attack them.

We have been warned. The question is: Now what do we do?

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC SERVICE OF DETECTIVE JOSH SIMMONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellent law enforcement personnel who serve North Carolina's 13th District. I would like to specifically mention a heroic act that happened on July 14 in Rowan County.

A detective named Josh Simmons saw a burning car as he drove down Highway 52. When he approached, he found an elderly woman unable to get out. He pulled her from the car just minutes before it went up in flames.

Detective Simmons said of his actions: "The way I was raised, you take care of people. I didn't know who was in the car. It didn't matter who they were. They just needed help."

Mr. Speaker, this is a great example for all of us. Our community is truly lucky to have such courageous folks serving and protecting us.

HEALTHY SKIES ACT

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to put forward a new proposal to help reopen our country with speed and with safety.

Between business, leisure, and tourism, air travel is a mode of transportation that must be trusted if our country can fully reopen. In fact, before the pandemic, commercial aviation drove 5 percent of our GDP and helped support more than 10 million American jobs.

Unfortunately, there are currently no concrete proposals to lessen the fear that has gripped air travelers and crippled the aviation industry. And that is why I am proposing a bipartisan bill called the Healthy Skies Act, along with Congressman RALPH NORMAN and JOHN LARSON.

This bipartisan legislation instructs the TSA Administrator to create a pilot program that would temporarily screen the temperature of all travelers going through TSA security before they reach the gate area.

Having the TSA temporarily screen passengers for elevated temperatures has a number of practical advantages. It ensures that each passenger experiences a consistent nationwide process to prevent infected individuals from boarding planes and spreading the virus. This will give travelers the peace of mind they need to confidently start flying again, while discouraging folks who might be sick from even attempting to come to the airport in the first place.

Reopening America should be the top priority of our government. Making sure air travelers are healthy enough to fly is a commonsense way to boost passenger confidence and jump-start economic activity. And that is how we can stop the spread of COVID-19 and continue a great American comeback.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) for 5 minutes.