

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, a short time ago, a ceremony honoring the life of the great Representative John Lewis was held in the Capitol Rotunda—the first time in our Nation's history that an African-American lawmaker had laid in state.

Last week, I shared my reflections on the life and legacy of John Lewis here on the floor. In the story of America, John was one of those special heroes whose moral clarity shown out like a beacon for others to follow, a North Star who inspired his fellow Americans to join him in the glorious work of perfecting our Union.

Today, as we honor his extraordinary life here in the Capitol, many of us—his friends, his colleagues—are filled with a deep sense of loss, but I want to share a short message of hope. It seems easy to forget that John Lewis was just a teenager when he started the work of “redeeming the soul of America,” as he put it. He was 18 years old when he first met Dr. King, 21 when he was arrested as a freedom fighter, 25 when he was beaten bloody on a Sunday in Selma.

The fight for civil rights has always been driven by the righteous indignation of our young people, and our time is no different. Once again, young people across the country are rising in a mighty movement for justice and equality, supported by the vast majority of Americans. The memory and legacy of John Lewis's life lives on in each and every one of them, and that fills me with hope.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, on a very different subject, over the past several months, Senate Democrats have been appalled that our Republican colleagues have refused to work with us in any significant way to help defeat COVID-19 or provide relief to Americans during these unprecedented times.

We do not understand how, faced with the greatest economic threat in 75 years and the greatest public health threat in a century, the Senate Republican majority was content to do almost nothing for 3 long months, as more people died, more were thrown out of work, more small businesses went under.

Last week, finally, our Republican colleagues said they were coming out with a plan, but even after all the delay, even after Leader MCCONNELL put the Senate on pause for 3 months, Senate Republicans and the White House were so unprepared and so divided, they couldn't even agree on a

proposal among themselves. Ten weeks—ten weeks after Democrats passed a comprehensive bill through the House, Senate Republicans couldn't even agree on what to throw on the wall.

Last week was a slow-motion train wreck on the Republican side. It couldn't have come at a worse time, and it will cause immense and, potentially, irrevocable damage to our country.

Protections against evictions expired last week, at a time when over 12 million persons lived in households that missed the rent payment last month. Enhanced unemployment benefits for 20 to 30 million Americans out of work expire this week, without a proper solution.

No matter what we do, States will not be able to quickly restart any enhanced unemployment benefits because Senate Republicans dithered for what seems like an eternity.

We are on the precipice of several cliffs—destructive cliffs—for one reason and one reason only: The White House and Senate Republicans couldn't get their act together and wasted precious time.

These issues could have been solved months ago, but the lack of any urgency and understanding and empathy for people who need help from Senate Republicans has led us to a very precarious moment.

Today, it seems, we may finally see the Republican proposal on the next phase of COVID relief. Who knows if we will see legislative text or just an outline. It also appears the Republican proposal will not be an actual, coherent bill but rather a series of small, piecemeal ideas. That is a metaphor for their first 100 days: lack of unity. They can't even put one bill together—they are so divided—so a few Senators put in this one, a few Senators put in that one, a few Senators put in another one.

Not only do we not know if the President supports any of these proposals, we don't even know if Senate Republicans fully support them.

Yesterday, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee said half of the Republican caucus will vote no on any additional stimulus.

The greatest crisis America has faced in close to a century on health, 75 years on the economy, and our Republican colleagues can't even agree among themselves about what to do and have put out a few piecemeal pieces that don't come close to doing the job.

We have waited months—months for the Republican COVID relief bill, and it turns out we will not even get a bill, and Republicans probably will not support it.

Worse still, based on reports and Leader MCCONNELL's speech just now, the Republican legislative response to COVID-19 is totally inadequate. It will not include food assistance for hungry kids—kids, whose parents can't feed them. They say no relief. How hard-

hearted. How cruel. Is it that those wealthy, rightwing people who don't want to pay any taxes say kids shouldn't eat? Because the private sector ain't doing it. You need the government.

Hazard pay for essential workers, risking their lives for us—what about funding for State and local and Tribal governments? Their budgets are in the tank. We are approaching a new month. Many, many, many essential workers will be laid off—busdrivers and sanitation workers and firefighters. The Republican proposal will ignore not one or two or three but scores of major crises in America right now.

In addition, based on what the leader has said, the Republican proposal will not go nearly far enough, even in the pieces they try to do something with—the small number, the disparate number, the unaggregated number—since each piece seems to be separate because they can't seem to get agreement among themselves.

When it comes to our schools, the Republican proposal does not provide enough resources for them to reopen safely.

Major League Baseball, an organization with vastly more resources than the average school district, has taken great pains to restart its season safely, and yet we learned today that 13 players and staff on 1 team alone have contracted the coronavirus.

How can Republicans ask our schools to protect the safety of our children without the necessary resources or guidance, when multibillion-dollar industries like baseball are having trouble doing it? And are they just afraid of President Trump, who wants the schools to open without any help, for whatever is in his own head, which isn't about the safety of America? The plan is totally inadequate.

It appears that Senate Republicans have finally come around to the fact that the Democratic position on extending the moratorium on evictions or it may be just the moratorium on foreclosures—we will see what is in the proposal. They have come around to that, but they don't support helping Americans actually afford the rent or their next mortgage payment. That makes no sense.

We can prevent landlords or banks from kicking Americans out of their homes for another 6 months, but what then? Those same Americans may be 6 months behind on their rent or mortgage. They will have no hope of making up the difference.

And what will the landlords do? Not all landlords are big companies. Some of them, just like in my neighborhood, are landlords of a two- or three-family house. If no one can pay the rent, that hurts them too. How are they going to pay for heat or electricity?

It is essential that we do what is in the Democratic Heroes Act and provide money to pay the rent or the mortgages for those thrown out of work, through no fault of their own, with no income.