

just a week or two away. So what have you heard about preparedness?

They said: Nothing. We have heard nothing.

There is no Republican substitute for the Affordable Care Act. They are just dutybound to eliminate ObamaCare, and, sadly, the consequences would be awful.

That is what this is about. So if you think, I don't want to tune in to this whole debate about a new Supreme Court Justice from Indiana; I don't want to hear all these arguments because what difference does it make to me—if you are that person in America—I would say to you, please, take a look at what we are really facing here—an effort to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court in a timely way to eliminate the Affordable Care Act. That is what this is all about.

Then, the President, just for good measure, tossed in another issue last week. How about this one—the first President in the history of the United States to not publicly declare that he would accept the outcome of an election? How about that? It is nothing short of a constitutional outrage that any President would say that. It is no surprise with this President because, when he was a candidate, he said basically the same thing: If it doesn't turn out that I win, then, I am not sure I want to live by the results.

He makes up these contrived arguments against paper ballots and how fraudulent they are. There are five States—five States in America—that use mail-in ballots exclusively. They include, of course, the State of Oregon, which might have been one of the first, and they include the State of Utah, as well, and Hawaii. Other States do it. How much fraud is there? Almost none. But that doesn't stop the President from claiming that mail-in ballots are fraudulent.

How does the President vote, incidentally? By mail-in ballot. What hypocrisy for him to make that kind of statement when he is casting his own vote with a mail-in ballot.

So now he said that he wants that Supreme Court vacancy filled: Do it now because I need nine Justices sitting on that Supreme Court if there is any election contest to follow.

It is pretty obvious what this is all about. The President needs a sure vote on the Supreme Court.

What a shame that we have reached this point, that we have denigrated the U.S. Senate to the point that we change the rules at our convenience, that we have reached the point where we are prepared to eliminate protections for 20 million Americans with nothing to replace it, and that we have reached a point where a President is so brazen as to say he wants to fill that spot on the Supreme Court just in case he runs into an election contest.

You would think there would be a chorus—a bipartisan chorus—of outrage for that statement by the President. Not so. There may have been oth-

ers—and I will scour the records to make sure—but two Republicans stepped up and said that the President's public statement on not abiding by election returns was terrible.

Who were those two? Senator MITT ROMNEY, here, the only Republican Senator I know of. If there were more, I will come back and correct the record. But I heard him clearly say that what the President said was intolerable. Then there was the Republican Governor of Massachusetts. I watched that press conference. He wasn't just declarative. He was upset to think that any President of either party would make that kind of statement. That is what we are up against.

Two weeks from yesterday, they want to hold a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on this nominee, Judge Barrett, and they want the vote before the election, before the argument on the Affordable Care Act, and before the President faces any possibility of an election contest.

What a point we have reached in this country. The silence of Republicans across the Nation is deafening. They ignore the obvious.

You cannot have a viable, trustworthy democracy if you don't have viable, trustworthy elections, and in order to have that happen, you need Presidents of both political parties who are committed to fairness, committed to honesty, and committed to our Constitution.

Sadly, at this moment in time, we do not have a President who is, and there are too many of his own political party who stand back in the shadows in silence, recanting on pledges they made 4 years ago, doing whatever is necessary to win the favor of this President.

I hope another day will come soon with different leadership and a different view of this country. I am genuinely concerned about what we face on November 3 and the days that follow, but I have never given up on America, and I never will. I believe this democracy will prevail, and I hope that after he is gone, some Republicans will step forward and say: It is time to create a party not in his image.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 12 noon, Wednesday, September 30; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 8337; finally, that all

time during recess of the Senate and leader remarks count postcloture on H.R. 8337.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I was unable to attend the rollcall vote No. 184 on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Edward H. Meyers, of Washington, DC, to be judge of the Court of Federal Claims. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted to oppose cloture.

I was unable to attend the rollcall vote No. 185 on the motion to confirm the nomination of Edward H. Meyers, of Washington, DC, to be judge of the Court of Federal Claims. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted to oppose confirmation.

I was unable to attend the rollcall vote No. 186 on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Andrea R. Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted to oppose cloture.

I was unable to attend the rollcall vote No. 187 on the motion to confirm the nomination of Andrea R. Lucas to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted to oppose confirmation.

I was unable to attend the rollcall vote No. 188 on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Keith Sonderling to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted to oppose cloture.

I was unable to attend the rollcall vote No. 189 on the motion to confirm the nomination of Keith Sonderling to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted to oppose confirmation.

NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the great work of the Georgia Greater Black Chamber of Commerce. The Georgia Greater Black Chamber has focused on recognizing the integral contributions of Black-owned businesses to the strength of both our State and our Nation's economy during National Black Business Month in August. For 7 straight years, Georgia has been named the No. 1 place in the country in which to do business, and the Georgia Greater Black Chamber has been instrumental in making that possible.

As I mentioned, August was National Black Business Month, and the Georgia Greater Black Chamber celebrated by honoring an important Georgian: Mr. Herman J. Russell.