

It is important to understand that Donald Trump's actions on January 6 weren't without precedent. The House impeachment managers made a compelling case that Donald Trump has a long history of urging and supporting violence among his supporters, knowing full well that they would take action.

This is a key matter for this impeachment trial: Did Donald Trump's words inspire violence? Were those carrying out the insurrection following his direction? The House managers gave several examples of Trump's past practice.

After Republican Congressman Greg Gianforte in 2018 pleaded guilty to assaulting a reporter who asked him a question, former President Trump praised him. "Any guy that can do a body slam—he's my guy."

After a 2017 rally of White supremacists and neo-Nazis turned violent in Charlottesville and killed a woman, former President Trump said there were "very fine people on both sides."

Last year, Trump sent a message for his followers to "liberate Michigan." Weeks later, messages threatening violence were directed against Governor Gretchen Whitmer. And later in the fall, a plot to kidnap Governor Whitmer emerged, led by Trump followers. President Trump made a call to action, and his followers responded.

And during the 2020 Presidential debates, when Donald Trump was asked if he would condemn White supremacists and other groups like the Proud Boys, a far-right group that endorses violence, he wouldn't answer, instead saying, "Proud Boys—stand back and stand by."

It is clear that Donald Trump's supporters, including those who participated in the insurrection on January 6, heeded his words and support of violence. The Proud Boys took Trump's words—"stand back and stand by"—and made it their official motto. Rioters at the Capitol told U.S. Capitol Police officers as they were threatening violence that they had been "invited" by President Trump. While the insurrection was going on, Trump supporters were reading Trump's tweets over a megaphone. The pattern is clear: Donald Trump has no qualms about asking his followers to commit violence. In fact, he celebrates them when they do.

After the November 2020 elections, Donald Trump immediately set out to undermine the results. His lawyers and his supporters filed 60 lawsuits to object to the results, as was his right under the law. But when those cases were tossed out, then-President Trump sought to cheat. He urged the secretary of state for Georgia to "find" enough votes to declare him the victor. When officials rebuffed his efforts to reverse his electoral loss, he led efforts to bring thousands of people to Washington to, in his words, "Stop the Steal."

The day he chose was January 6, the day Congress was meeting to certify

the election results. Trump directed his followers to go to the Capitol and to "fight like hell." As was documented extensively in this trial, Trump knew that this group was preparing for violence when he directed them to walk to the Capitol.

What we learned this week is that Donald Trump was also aware of the violence at the Capitol as a frenzied insurrection mob ransacked the Capitol and sought to physically harm Members of Congress and even kill the Vice President. After being told that Vice President had been removed from the Senate Chamber for his safety, Trump tweeted to his supporters that Pence lacked "courage" to reject the electoral college results. This happened precisely as Trump's supporters were building a gallows and chanting "Hang Mike Pence."

Indeed, new information revealed during the course of this trial indicates that President Trump knew the state of violence in the Capitol. One Senator has stated publicly that he told President Trump on the phone that Vice President Pence had been removed from the Senate Chamber by his Secret Service detail.

We have also heard on-the-record reports that in a phone call between President Trump and House Minority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY while the Leader's office was under attack, then-President Trump apparently continued to support those carrying out the violent insurrection. So despite direct pleas from Members of Congress and the former President's closest Republican confidants, Trump refused for hours to call off the mob or urge calm.

As House impeachment manager JAMIE RASKIN said during the presentation, "Donald Trump surrendered his role as commander-in-chief and became the inciter-in-chief of a dangerous insurrection."

Five people, including a U.S. Capitol Police Officer, lost their lives as a result of this insurrection guided by Donald Trump. And nearly 140 officers from the Capitol Police and Washington Metropolitan Police Department were injured, some severely.

The evidence presented this week shows that Donald Trump committed high crimes and misdemeanors and that he should be convicted.

I thank the House managers for their hard work in making a thoroughly compelling, convincing, and fair case, and I hope we can move past this terrible moment in our Nation's history.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United

States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARDIN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. Res. 58. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. Res. 59. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. Res. 60. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. Res. 58. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. Res. 59. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. Res. 60. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. INHOFE, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 61. A resolution honoring the life, achievements, and legacy of the Honorable George Pratt Shultz; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 62. A resolution congratulating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and the loyal fans of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, for becoming Super Bowl LV champions; considered and agreed to.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 58—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. CARDIN submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 58

Resolved,