

Three of New York's finest were injured yesterday while assigned to prevent looting. A New York State trooper in Buffalo was run over the other night. I wish New York State Trooper Ron Ensminger and the Buffalo police officers injured in these disturbing incidents a speedy and full recovery and thank them for their service and commitment to public safety.

Let me state, once again, unequivocally, that the cause of justice and change sought by protesters in and beyond is undermined by lawlessness and violence. President Trump, however, seems to be incapable of acknowledging the fact that the overwhelming number of peace protesters are peaceful and are simply advocating change. He seems incapable of turning the temperature down to prevent more violence. Quite the opposite. The President wants Americans to falsely believe that all the people who are protesting for a good cause—equality and racial justice—are violent. Nothing could be further from the truth. The overwhelming majority are doing what our Founding Fathers did: protesting to make this Nation a better nation. They should be praised, not vilified.

In a week marred by unacceptable violence and rioting in some places, the President advocates chaos and disorder, including appalling attacks on constitutional rights on his front porch. My goodness. My goodness.

Earlier this week, Americans watched Federal officers, under the direction of the President and the Attorney General, use gas and rubber bullets to disperse a crowd of peaceful protesters in the park. The Lincoln Memorial was blocked off by rows of camouflaged officers.

There are reports right now that troops from Fort Drum and Fort Bragg are camped outside Washington, DC. I would ask the leaders of our military, if these reports are true, what are they doing there, and what are their orders?

The leader, a few minutes ago, mentioned Tiananmen Square. Of course, no one believes that we are China or like China—of course not. We are a democracy, and we are proud of it. Most of us love and praise the right for peaceful protests. But I would remind the Republican leader, when any President, particularly an overreaching one like this, steps over the line, if good people don't raise their voices, that is the way to erode democracy, which China does not have.

Where is Leader MCCONNELL's voice? Instead of spinning these crazy theories, why doesn't he just speak out against what the President did Monday night? Why did he block our resolution, our simple resolution, which called for only three things: one, praise the protesters; two, condemn violence; and, three, condemn the President for what he did?

Our Nation's Capital is being patrolled by Federal officers commanded by President Trump and Attorney General Barr, who refuse to identify who they are and where they come from.

What is President Trump doing to this democracy, to the rule of law, to the primacy of the Constitution? And where are the Republican Senate voices—Leader MCCONNELL and everyone else here—condemning what he did?

Again, democracy will be eroded if we don't stand up for it, if we are afraid to speak out, afraid to tell President Trump he is overreaching and has done bad, bad things when he does them.

I am not the only one who feels this way. We have had statement after statement from Americans of all political stripes. I read George Will, for instance, the other day. He is a conservative, but he cares about America, and he has got some principle.

Then, the most remarkable of all, issued by President Trump's former Secretary of Defense. I want to read some of what former Secretary Mattis said:

When I joined the military, some 50 years ago, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Never did I dream that troops taking that same oath would be ordered under any circumstance to violate the constitutional rights of their fellow citizens—much less to provide a bizarre photo op for the elected commander-in-chief, with military leadership standing alongside. We know that we are better than the abuse of executive authority that we witnessed in Lafayette Square.

Mattis continues:

Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people—does not even pretend to try. Instead he tries to divide us. We are witnessing the consequences of three years of this deliberate effort. We are witnessing the consequences of three years without mature leadership. We can unite without him, drawing on the strengths inherent in our civil society. This will not be easy, as the past few days have shown, but we owe it to our fellow citizens; to past generations that bled to defend our promise; and to our children.

That was President Trump's former Secretary of Defense, James Mattis. Like all former members of the military, I know that Secretary Mattis strives to avoid political statements. He has assiduously avoided them so far. But it was a searing indictment of President Trump's failures that impromptu Secretary Mattis to speak out so strongly about the President's divisiveness, immaturity, and abuse of power.

Make no mistake about it, General Mattis's comments were a shot across the bow to our military leaders: Don't let the President push you into doing things you know that are wrong, that should not be done, and that could very well violate the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from South Dakota.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, responding to the coronavirus continues to be one of our top priorities here in Congress, I think, as evidenced that yesterday the Senate moved a bill across the floor of the Senate that will be on its way now to the President's desk for his

signature, previously passed by the House, that makes some modifications to the PPP program—things that were sought by both sides, improvements, I think, that enable that program to be used with greater flexibility, extending the amount of time in which those dollars that have been received can be used, and allowing some greater flexibility in how they are used.

So I think that is evidence, again, that this body, and both Democrats and Republicans working together, can get things done for the American people that address the very direct needs and challenges they face right now as a result of the coronavirus.

I credit the authors of that—Senators COLLINS and RUBIO on our side, along with their Democratic counterparts—for working together to structure a program that has not only helped many businesses stay in business—millions of businesses stay in business—but has kept tens of millions of people in this country employed at a time when we desperately need to keep those jobs.

So, again, I think it is evidence of this body's and our Senate majority's focus on the coronavirus and things we can do to help assist those who have been most harmed economically by that, as well as addressing the very real health emergency that we need to continue to focus on in terms of finding those therapeutics and vaccines that will enable the American people to have confidence, once again, that they can go out.

#### THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, what I want to speak to today is the evidence that we are seeing that the economy around the country is starting to reopen. There is still a lot of work, obviously, that has to be done to defeat the virus and help our economy and the American people recover.

As I mentioned, we have spent the past few weeks focused on monitoring the implementation of the \$2.4 trillion in aid that Congress has provided. Our committees are hard at work conducting coronavirus oversight and looking ahead to what else Congress may need to do to combat the virus and to get our economy going again.

We are looking at what more funding Congress may need to provide and what Congress can do that doesn't involve a lot of new spending.

As I said, Congress has already provided \$2.5 trillion to fight the coronavirus, and we will absolutely provide more if needed, but we need to remember that every dollar we have provided is borrowed money that our children and grandchildren will have to repay.

Our debt was already very large compared to the size of our economy, even before—before this year's coronavirus-related borrowing, and that is a very concerning reality. The truth is, we can't just keep borrowing and borrowing ever greater sums without suffering real economic consequences.

So, while we may need to borrow more money to meet our needs before this crisis is over, it is crucial that we keep that borrowing as low as possible and only spend that which is absolutely necessary.

That is why the Senate is so focused on conducting oversight of the money we have already provided. Seeing how and where those funds are used will give us a better sense of where we spent sufficiently and where more money may be needed.

We are also, as I said, looking at what we can do to help families and businesses that does not involve spending a lot of taxpayer dollars. While my friends across the aisle generally seem to regard money or a new government program as the solution to every problem, the truth is, there are a lot of things Congress can do without spending trillions of taxpayer dollars or setting up new government bureaucracies, everything from making permanent reforms to make telehealth more accessible to shielding responsible businesses from frivolous litigation.

I have three tax bills that I have introduced this Congress that would help Americans during and after the pandemic. One of these bills is my Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act, which I introduced last year along with Senator SHERROD BROWN.

In our economy, substantial numbers of workers travel to different States for temporary work assignments on a regular basis, and they end up subject to a bewildering variety of State laws governing State income tax.

Our legislation would simplify things for both workers and employers by creating an across-the-board tax standard for mobile employees who spend a short period of time working across State lines. It would ensure that States receive fair tax payments while making life a lot easier for workers who travel to different States for work.

While this legislation is good tax policy, generally—we have needed clear rules of the road for out-of-State workers for a while—it has particular relevance in the age of coronavirus.

The Governor of New York has made it clear that he is looking to cash in on the pandemic by subjecting doctors and nurses who cross State lines to voluntarily work in New York to New York's income tax.

We need to make sure that medical professionals who traveled to other States to help fight the coronavirus aren't rewarded with big tax bills. Another tax bill I introduced last year that has particular relevance in the age of coronavirus is my New Economy Works to Guarantee Independence and Growth Act. We always have an acronym around here. It is called the NEW GIG Act.

The last decade or so has seen the rise of the gig economy—services provided by individuals through apps and websites like Uber, Lyft, TaskRabbit, Instacart, Postmates, and many oth-

ers. A lot of us have relied on these workers during the pandemic to provide food and grocery delivery. But these gig economy arrangements stretch the boundaries of current tax law.

During the pandemic, companies who have wanted to provide additional benefits to workers—from personal protective equipment to financial assistance—have hesitated to do so for fear that their actions would accidentally reclassify their workers from independent contractors to employees. That would mean the end of this kind of work for a lot of people who rely on it for the income and flexibility it provides.

My NEW GIG Act updates our tax law to provide clear guidance on the classification of this new generation of workers. It will ensure Lyft drivers, Postmates, Taskers, and others are treated as independent contractors for purposes of tax law if they meet a set of objective criteria.

My bill will allow companies to provide support to workers to help them stay safe during the pandemic without jeopardizing these individuals' status as independent contractors. And it will ensure that the valuable services these individual provide will remain available to the Americans who are increasingly reliant on them.

In addition to the NEW GIG Act, I also introduced the Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act last month. This legislation, which I introduced with Senator WYDEN, is designed to prevent consumers from being faced with multiple taxes for downloading digital products.

Over the past few months, I imagine a lot of Americans have purchased new books to read on their Kindle or a new television series to watch. But what many Americans don't know is that, right now, a digital purchase of a book or television series could hypothetically be taxed in up to three States, depending on the circumstances of the purchase.

With States likely looking to find new revenue in the wake of declining receipts during the pandemic, there is a real danger that Americans could see multiple States' worth of taxes on their digital purchases. The Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act would provide "rules of the road" for taxing digital goods and services and ensure that digital purchases could be taxed in only one State—the State in which the consumer resides.

It would also prohibit States and local governments from taxing digital goods at higher rates than tangible goods. In other words, under our bill, that season of "The Office" you want to buy digitally couldn't be taxed at a higher rate than if you were purchasing the season on DVD.

These tax bills are just some of the ideas Republicans are putting forward that would help Americans without spending trillions of additional taxpayer dollars. I am working on mul-

tiples other measures to help Americans in the wake of the coronavirus. For example, the CARES Act, our largest coronavirus response bill to date, included a temporary version of legislation I introduced with Senator WARNER that allows employers to contribute up to \$5,250 tax-free to help pay down their employees' student loans.

This is a win for employees, who can receive help with burdensome loan payments during a time when multiple Americans' finances are stretched thin. And it is a win for employers, who have a new benefit to offer to help attract talented employees as they seek to build their businesses back up after the past few months of COVID-related challenges.

I am hoping that we can make this legislation permanent before the end of the year. As I said earlier, if we need to provide additional coronavirus funding, we will. But we need to make sure we are only providing what is genuinely necessary because today's young workers, and our children and grandchildren, will be paying the price for the debt we are amassing.

I am committed to supporting legislation that will help Americans get through this crisis while minimizing the burden on future generations. My tax bills are one example of this kind of legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance them in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

REMEMBERING GEORGE FLOYD

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today after my colleagues have held a moment of silence for the passing of George Floyd. His family should not be preparing for his funeral today. All Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, deserve to have equal protection under the law.

It is time that we not just speak out about injustice; it is time that we pass new Federal laws to protect the civil liberties of U.S. citizens and protect them from these injustices. What is our role here in the U.S. Senate? I believe it comes to passing new laws for those Federal protections.

The U.S. Attorney General is the top law enforcement of our country. He directs and supervises U.S. attorneys that prosecute Federal crimes.

The Attorney General is supposed to make sure that citizens in our country have equal protection of the law. He is supposed to uphold the Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable seizure and the Civil Rights Act, that protects against excessive use of force by police.

It is not about calling out the military. It is about protecting the civil liberties of our U.S. citizens. He is supposed to enforce 18 U.S. Code Sec 242, which prohibits the deprivation of rights under the color of law. It criminalizes abuse by police.

The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division is supposed to step in