

Let's not also just be deaf to the plight and fate that our officers are dealing with every day on the streets of America. We need more funding to help our police departments. We definitely, in some cases, need additional pay. But for this, we also need to deal with our housing crisis, our mental health crisis, our opioid addiction crisis. So many of our men and women in blue are policing our streets not for crimes but for dealing with the population that is living on the streets. We need to do better here than to short-change them and to not help—not to help correct these situations that have now become day-to-day tasks in what has never been part of the law enforcement effort.

I ask my colleagues, let's put our differences aside to get real action on these. There is a Federal role on civil rights enforcement. Let's take that role seriously, let's respond to the death, and do something about it. I know that the best way to honor George Floyd today would be to help pass the laws that help protect the citizenry of our State. We are a great country, and we can do better by meeting this challenge.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

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

#### RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate Judiciary Committee held our first oversight hearing to learn more about the origins and evolution of the counterintelligence investigation known as Crossfire Hurricane, opened in July of 2016 against a Presidential candidate and his campaign team. I asked Rod Rosenstein, the former Deputy Attorney General, if he knew of a precedent for active FBI investigations against both nominees of the major political parties for Presidential campaign, and he said: No, there is no precedent.

The FBI is not supposed to be involved in our elections and in our politics. Yet you recall what happened on July 5, 2016. Director James Comey held another unprecedented event—a press conference—at which he said that no reasonable prosecutor would prosecute Secretary Hillary Clinton for a crime but then proceeded to detail derogatory information—information that was not his to release but was supposed to be part of a confidential investigation.

Under our system of justice, the FBI is supposed to investigate crime, and then the Department of Justice makes the charging decision. That is when things become public. Yet, when the FBI decides there is not enough evidence to support charging, it doesn't hold a press conference and disparage the character and reputation of the person it is investigating.

I don't know whether Director Comey had an impact on the 2016 election, but I do know what he did was wrong, and, yesterday, Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein confirmed his memo to then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions, which was then attached to Jeff Sessions' letter to the President, recommending that Director Comey be terminated as the FBI Director. The reason was not because he had made a mistake but because he had failed to see the error of his ways and was likely to repeat them again.

The Deputy Attorney General is supposed to be the supervisor for the FBI, and while the chain of command is pretty clear in criminal cases, in this species of investigation known as counterintelligence, which is not primarily to investigate crimes but to investigate security threats to the United States, there was no chain of command. The FBI was running rogue under Director Comey, along with some of the things we have learned about with regard to Director McCabe, Peter Strzok, Lisa Page, and others.

It is really important that we not only make sure we understand what happened—that it was unprecedented and negatively affected Hillary Clinton's campaign—but that it also negatively affected Donald Trump and his campaign, and this investigation continued long after he became President. It resulted in the appointment of a special counsel, who ended up with no evidence with which to charge the President with any crime.

We can't have the FBI interfering with our elections. Yes, it needs to investigate counterintelligence threats to the United States, and it needs to investigate crimes, but it should not be a primary actor in that process, in the public process, by which we elect Presidents. It needs to stay in its particular lane and not become a partisan, in effect, affecting the outcome of Presidential elections, all of which is to say that the investigation the Committee on the Judiciary began yesterday is very, very important. One thing we must make sure of is that this never happens again, and the only way we can make sure it never happens again is to make clear what did happen and where the train went off the rails.

The last 3½ years have been primarily occupied with this so-called investigation into President Trump and his campaign, then the appointment of a special counsel, and 2 years of Director Mueller's investigation as special counsel. Then what followed that was impeachment. Think of all of the opportunity costs associated with that, the time we could have and should have spent on doing things which would have impacted the quality of life of the American people—improving access to healthcare, creating economic opportunity, enhancing our national security. These are things we were not doing because we were preoccupied with these bogus investigations and the media leaks by the people who knew better.

ADAM SCHIFF and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence took a lot of sworn testimony during their "investigation." Now that it has been declassified, we know that none of the witnesses—mainly Obama-era officials—knew of any evidence of coordination, cooperation, or collusion with Russian authorities—none of them. Yet ADAM SCHIFF and others on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence had the temerity to go to the microphones and say there was rampant collusion, conspiracy, and collaboration—just bald-faced lies. Of course, the American people didn't know that. We didn't know that because those allegations were reported in the press, and they led into this narrative which has so dominated us over the last 3½ years, only to find there was no basis for it.

Suffice it to say that the investigations that are being conducted by the Committee on the Judiciary and by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, led by Chairman JOHNSON, I think, are very, very important. The facts will come out. We know that Attorney General Barr has deputized Mr. Durham, a U.S. attorney, to see whether there is evidence of chargeable crimes, because there needs to be accountability.

#### AMERICA'S SPACE PROGRAM

Mr. President, let me just on, maybe, on a happier note, talk about another event. We need a little good news, a little hope, a little optimism in America these days.

Last weekend, America's space program made history with the successful SpaceX crew Dragon launch. It was nearly a decade ago that American astronauts in American rockets were launched into space from American soil. I mean, until last weekend, we were literally captives of the Russians in their providing the rockets or the rides we needed in order to get to the International Space Station. Yet that is not the only reason this launch was so significant. It marked the first time that our astronauts launched in a commercially built and operated spacecraft. I must say that it looked pretty slick to me.

As we work to ensure our country remains a leader in human spaceflight, partnerships between the public and private sectors are going to continue to be very important. That is why NASA established a commercial crew program to link the brilliant minds at NASA with those innovative companies like SpaceX, and this launch gave us just a glimpse into how those partnerships will lead us in the future.

I remember the launch of the Apollo 11 mission almost 51 years ago, and I remember seeing the photos of the astronauts in the command module. They wore bulky space suits, and the surrounding walls were completely covered with switches and dials and buttons. To be honest, not much changed over the next several decades. Even with the last launch on American soil

in 2011, the Space Shuttle Atlantis looked pretty similar.

What America saw on Saturday was a glimpse into the future. Astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley were outfitted in custom-designed and fitted space suits, and they were seated in front of a sleek touchscreen. It looked like the console of a Tesla, to me, but I am sure it was more sophisticated than that.

After the two astronauts arrived at the International Space Station, Behnken referred to the Dragon as a slick vehicle. Yet things don't just look like they were made for the future, for they were designed to work better, last longer, and be safer. The Falcon 9 rocket was made with reusable parts to bring down the cost of human spaceflight. As we return American astronauts to the Moon and eventually to Mars, this commercial launch will have marked a new era of space exploration. It gives us hope and excitement at a time when both of those are desperately needed.

I thank and commend the countless men and women who have made this mission possible, especially my fellow Texans at Johnson Space Center—the center of human spaceflight for NASA—and then, of course, Elon Musk, who founded SpaceX. He said this launch was the result of, roughly, 100,000 people's efforts when you added up all of the suppliers and everybody involved. When you combine that with the work of the brave and brilliant astronauts, physicists, engineers, mathematicians, and scientists of all stripes who have helped us to have met our space exploration goals over the years, it is clear that America's space program's best days are ahead.

When the final NASA space shuttle crew departed the International Space Station in 2011, it left behind a small American flag with instructions that it be brought back to Earth by the next crew to be launched from the United States. Finally, almost a decade later, it has been united with the astronauts who will carry it home.

On behalf of a proud nation, congratulations to astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley, to everyone at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and SpaceX on successfully capturing that flag. We welcome you home in the coming months so we can proudly say alongside of you: Mission finally accomplished.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from New Jersey.

**Mr. MENENDEZ.** Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my remarks be allowed to be concluded in full before the vote.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF MICHAEL PACK

**Mr. MENENDEZ.** Mr. President, I rise to oppose the nomination of Michael Pack to be the Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Agency for Global Media. Yet, before I get into the spe-

cifics of the Pack nomination, I need to say a few words about the moment we are in and how we got here.

We are facing two devastating crises. Over 100,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 in just a matter of months, and that number continues to grow. The scale and the speed of the tragedy is almost impossible to comprehend. We certainly stand with all of our families who have lost loved ones, and we cherish their memories. Unlike COVID-19, the second crisis is one of our own making.

Over centuries of injustice, African Americans and other people of color have not been treated like human beings; they have not been treated like every American deserves to be treated, like every person in the world has the right to be treated. No. All too often, they have been treated like George Floyd, with a knee on the neck as they gasp and choke "I can't breathe." As a result, our country has erupted with protests. In this moment, these grievances have been met with the petty antics and deplorable, violent tactics of notorious dictators around the world.

I am shaking in having to say this. I am shaken to the core that President Trump, with the assistance of his Attorney General, used violence against peaceful protesters—people exercising their First Amendment rights—all for a photo op with a Bible. That is not right. It is not acceptable, and that is not America.

This body has to act. We have to act quickly and effectively to address these twin crises. The moment calls for leadership at every level. We all know this, but we are not doing it. Why not? The answer is that President Trump and the Republican majority of this body are focused elsewhere while our country is suffering—perhaps like never before. They are focused on domestic political errands. Yet, while trivial, these errands are corrosive to this body, to our country, and to the Constitution.

I need to say a few words about what is and what is not happening in the Committee on Foreign Relations, because it bears directly on how and why Michael Pack is getting a vote on the Senate floor today.

The Committee on Foreign Relations has helped to shape our collective response to some of the country's greatest challenges—from Vietnam to September 11, to Afghanistan. We ought to be rising to the challenges of our time and shaping the international response to COVID-19. Yet, tragically, we have not held one public hearing on COVID, and the committee has not debated or voted on a single COVID-related bill or amendment despite our being months into the crisis. I know the Democratic members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations came together and offered a bill as part of an effort to be bipartisan so as to begin to address the crisis, because we understand that viruses and diseases know no borders.

For as long as anyone can remember, until its current chairman, the com-

mittee has operated pursuant to what is known as comity. While that sounds like a fancy word, it simply means that we have found a way to work together to achieve a process that has worked for all members—the majority and minority alike—even if we haven't always agreed on the substance. Had the chairman engaged to our condition of comity, we would have almost certainly had a business meeting that would have focused on COVID, which is the crisis at hand, and not Mr. Pack—a blatantly flawed nominee. I know that "comity" sounds awfully quaint in the polarized times in which we live, but it has worked. It has worked for the members, for the committee, and for the country. It has been the force that has bound us together, the force by which we have found common ground to advance the national interest.

I am sad to report that the Michael Pack nomination was the nail in the coffin for comity. The chairman ignored the requests of every member of the committee's minority—a simple request: Let's not vote on Michael Pack until we have collectively worked through all of the serious background problems that exist. The letter that was sent to the chairman did not even get responded to prior to ramming Pack through the committee. That silence and the actions that have been taken have changed the committee and, I believe, the Senate for the worse.

I don't have the time or the inclination to go through every violation of the rules and norms that marred the committee's process on Michael Pack, but there is one violation that I have to speak to, one that is so serious and so corrosive that it needs to be documented and should never be repeated. I am speaking about the chairman's refusal to allow a video stream live of the committee's debate and vote on Mr. Pack. Yes, the chairman intentionally deprived the public of its opportunity to watch this unfortunate episode unfold as it did. This was shameful. It violated the rules. It sent the wrong message to every American and every person around the world.

This committee is a beacon of light to the world for those who are oppressed, for transparency, for open government, for the rule of law, for a free press. Well, we shut out the Nation and the world for the first time in my years of being on the committee. Since I got to the Senate, I have been on the committee. I am the longest serving member of the committee from either side of the aisle. Never have we done that. This is a message that we are weak, a message that we are ashamed, a message that has no place in our democracy.

Now let me turn to Mr. Pack.

If confirmed, Mr. Pack will oversee the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Television Marti, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks. It is absolutely critical that any person in this position maintain a strong firewall