

Obviously, the people's business does not come to a halt in the absence of votes on the floor. The important work of our committees will go forward as each committee sees fit. Chairman GRAHAM has already announced the Judiciary Committee will meet as planned on October 12 to begin considering Judge Barrett's nomination to the Supreme Court. We are full steam ahead with the fair, thorough, and timely confirmation process that Judge Barrett, the Court, and the Nation deserve.

The chairman has indicated the committee will use the same hybrid format—with some participants appearing in person and others appearing over video—that it has successfully used for more than 20 prior hearings this year.

Let me say that again. The Judiciary Committee alone—just that committee—has held more than 20 hybrid hearings since the start of the pandemic. Many of these saw multiple Senators participating via video conference. Some of them saw nominees participating by video conference. At times, the Democratic members of the committee have gone literally out of their way to praise this technology and the chairman's flexibility with this format.

Across all of our committees, we have had 150 hybrid hearings since the pandemic began. The Senate has used this format no fewer than 150 times. We have continued performing our constitutional duties while protecting health and safety during the pandemic.

Our Democratic colleagues have largely welcomed this approach, and they have frequently taken advantage of it. So whatever mix proves to be the right decision at this time next week, it will be completely consistent with the committee's own precedent and with the ways committees all across the Senate have adapted and done their work throughout the pandemic.

Our whole society is using these tools. Earlier today, the Supreme Court itself resumed conducting oral arguments via teleconference, as it has done since last spring. The Senate has been using these processes for months. Just yesterday, the ranking member of the Rules Committee reminded the country that she actually helped set them up.

It is nonsense for Senate Democrats to turn on a dime and now pretend these procedures are somehow no longer workable. It is nonsense to suggest that the tools that Senate Democrats have been happily using across all of our committees for months have suddenly gone bad overnight.

Nobody is taking these disingenuous tactics at face value because the Democrats have told everyone, out loud, about their real intentions. For weeks now, numerous Senate Democrats have publicly promised they would try every trick in the book—every trick in the book—every maneuver available, to obstruct and delay a fair confirmation process.

Weeks ago, the junior Senator from Hawaii pledged: "I will look for every procedural tool that I can [find] to make sure that this does not happen."

Weeks ago, the senior Senator from Massachusetts: "We need to use every tool. . . . We need to think seriously about everything we can do to try to slow this down."

The No. 2 Democratic Senator, our friend from Illinois, has said: "we [will] use whatever tools we have available" to "slow things down."

Just yesterday, in the very same press conference where the Democratic leader claimed that his latest call to delay the hearings were rooted in health and safety concerns, he gave the game away just moments later. In that same press conference, he admitted, "We will use every tool in the toolbox to delay"—so much about health and safety concerns.

Our Democratic colleagues have admitted out loud what all these stalling tactics are about. Senate Democrats have openly admitted they are grasping at straws to block the exceedingly well-qualified nominee from receiving a fair and prompt process.

Look, we have months of experience governing this way while protecting health and safety here in the Senate. This body will not cease to function just because Democrats are afraid they may lose a vote. Chairman GRAHAM has all the options and procedures he needs to supervise a fair, thorough, and hopefully dignified confirmation hearing next week. That is just what is going to happen.

I look forward to seeing Judge Barrett's brilliance and qualifications on full display starting 1 week from today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I would like to add, on behalf of my Democratic colleagues, the concerns expressed for the President and First Lady, that they recover quickly and fully.

Having had coronavirus—likely contracted here when we were working on the CARES Act in March—I understand how tricky this can be and, knowing four people who died of coronavirus, how serious it can be. Our prayer is that this is a mild case, and it passes quickly.

I also extend the same concern on behalf of my Democratic colleagues for the Members of the Senate who have recently tested positive and hope that they either have no symptoms or the symptoms pass quickly.

I couldn't help but notice, as I came into the Senate today on the subway from the Russell building, that there is an advisory that has been posted for months down at the entrance to the Senate that says that we are trying to follow CDC guidelines, but the advisory placard says nothing about masks—nothing.

I have wondered about that as I passed before it in the past, but in light of the experience over the last few days, I think in order to fairly follow science-based guidelines and give people warnings about what they should do to protect their health, we might consider a different placard.

Briefly, with respect to the majority leader's comments—I would love to be working on a COVID bill. The House passed a Democratic preferred COVID bill—the Heroes Act—in May. I understand the majority leader and his colleagues find things about it they don't like.

There is no expectation that they would just take up the House Democratic bill and pass it, but we waited through May and then June and then July and then August, until finally, in mid to late September, the majority put a bill on the floor that we viewed, frankly, as insufficient.

It contained no funds for State and local government aid, no funds for rental or mortgage assistance, no funds for SNAP benefits or food aid. It would have stricken State laws, such as those that had been passed in Virginia to try to provide a workplace safety standard for people returning to work in the days of COVID.

We voted the bill down, as the majority leader knows, but we did so with the expectation that that no vote would function much like the no vote in March functioned when we came in on a Sunday and we voted down a partisan proposal, and a few days later, we had a bipartisan proposal—the CARES Act—that has helped millions and millions of Americans, small businesses, hospitals, families.

We hope that no vote would lead to the same negotiation that could potentially find a solution for Americans who are still looking for relief, but the majority wants to now move to a different topic. They want to now speed through a Supreme Court nomination with an unprecedented speed and, indeed, an unprecedented process.

I understand that the majority leader might categorize the Democrats' concerns about proceeding at a time of great sickness as a procedural trick, but I don't think there is any unreasonableness to a Judiciary Committee member's request that a hearing on the single most important appointment that the Senate might make should be done in person. If it is done in person, it should be done in person in a way that is safe. That is the request the Democrats would have and that we continue to believe would be in accord with the institution's norms but also the best thing for the safety of all Members.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been said that the United States is like a brilliant tapestry woven from a dazzling array of colors and patterns into a unique whole. If that is true, then the contributions of Hispanics are surely among the largest and most vibrant swaths in our rich national tapestry, and Hispanic Heritage Month is a good time to reflect on those contributions.

This celebration runs each year from mid-September to mid-October. The dates were chosen to coincide with the dates in which several Latin American nations—including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Chile—celebrate their own independence from colonial rule. This national celebration used to be just a week long, but in 1988, Congress wisely and unanimously voted to expand Hispanic Heritage Week to Hispanic Heritage Month. The legislation was sponsored by Congressman Esteban Torres and my friend and political mentor, Senator Paul Simon. It was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, a proud, conservative Republican who understood that America's heritage as a nation of immigrants is one of our greatest sources of strength—economically, politically, culturally and morally.

The contributions and influence of Latinos on our Nation has grown dramatically in the three decades since the establishment of Hispanic Heritage Month. Today there are more than 60 million Latinos in the U.S. Illinois is proud to be home to one of the largest Latino populations in the country, including many people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Guatemalan heritage. Latinos and Latinas are leaders in every walk of life, including business, the arts, sciences, education, sports, entertainment, and public service. A “wise Latina,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor, now serves on the U.S. Supreme Court. Ellen Ochoa, an engineer and the first Latina astronaut, is now director of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Latinas are literally helping America reach for the stars.

In my home State of Illinois, Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr., is the president of the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, based in Chicago. He and his organization are doing critical work to educate and motivate Latinos to vote and to fill out the Census, ensuring that Latinos are seen and their voices heard. Alexis Esparza is president of Economic Strategies Development Cor-

poration. For nearly half a century, his organization, ESDC, has worked in the Pilsen community of Chicago to preserve historic buildings, build affordable new housing, and help create new commercial and industrial economic development opportunities. They are part of a long and proud tradition of Hispanic men and women whose work has made America's economy more prosperous and fairer for all of us.

Many Americans know the names Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. In 1966, these two brave labor leaders helped organize farm workers in Delano, CA, to form the United Farm Workers of America. Standing together, backed by their union, the farm workers were able to strike for higher wages, safer working conditions, and protections for women farm workers from sexual violence.

Fewer people recognize the name Guadalupe Marshall. She is also a hero for workers' rights. Let me tell you about her. On Memorial Day 1937, 10 unarmed union demonstrators from Republic Steele were shot down by police in Chicago. Lupe Marshall, who had immigrated to America from Mexico when she was 10 years old, was one of the people attending that strike. She was a mother of three and a volunteer social worker at the Jane Addams Hull House. The “Memorial Day Massacre” is how many history books label the carnage at Republic Steele. Three weeks after the killings, Lupe Marshall travelled to Washington, DC, to testify before the Senate about what she had witnessed.

She described placing herself on the front line when shots rang out and then turning to see many people lying face down on the ground. She ran, but she was clubbed in the head and arrested. Her courage helped to build support among the American people and in Congress for laws to help working people stand together for fair wages, safe working conditions, and civil rights.

During this Hispanic Heritage Month, we are especially aware of the enormous contributions that Hispanic Americans continue to make to America's economy. Sadly, we know that this COVID-19 pandemic is taking a disproportionate toll on Black and Brown Americans. Nationwide, Latinos are being hospitalized with COVID-19 at more than 4½ times the rate of White people. In Illinois and several other States, Latinos have the highest COVID-19 infection rates of any ethnic group. COVID-19 is also threatening the livelihoods of Latinos throughout the US. Almost 60 percent of Latino households have experienced job loss or wage reductions during this pandemic.

At the same time, our Nation is relying heavily on Latinos, both citizens and immigrants, to help steer us safely through this pandemic. Latinos are working on the frontlines of this pandemic as doctors, nurses, and home healthcare workers. They are also working around the clock, behind the scenes, to disinfect our workplaces, schools, stores, and health centers. Latino farm workers continue to work

in the fields and in packing plants, harvesting, and preparing the food that keeps us fed. Despite the virus and, now, the thick smoke of wildfires blanketing much of the west coast, they remain on the job.

Latinos are working as grocery clerks, teachers, postal employees, servicemembers, and other “essential worker jobs.” Many of these heroic essential workers are immigrants, and many are Dreamers. They continue to work and serve in their communities while their own status remains in limbo.

Latino-owned businesses are one of the fastest growing segments of America's economy. Nationwide, nearly 1-in-4 newly created businesses today are Latino-owned. More than 4 million Latino-owned businesses provide jobs for 2.7 million workers. Together, these businesses pump over \$700 billion into America's economy. In Illinois, 120,000 Latino-owned businesses generate \$15 billion and create jobs for 100,000 workers. These passionate entrepreneurs are the heart and pride of their communities. I see them in communities all across Illinois. Let me tell you about some of them.

In Chicagoland, Latino community and business leaders have created programs such as the Food for Hope Program and the Big Shoulders Fund to distribute free food to families who are hungry because of economic hardships related to the pandemic.

Pedro Perez owns his own maintenance company, PCY General Services. He and his daughter are part of a team that diligently disinfects Esperanza Health Centers on the Southwest Side of Chicago to make sure that the space is safe for families and for the medical professionals who work there. What is even more remarkable is that he does all of this without charge. Why? Pedro says, with a smile, because “it's his community.” Every day, in every community in Illinois and every corner of America, you can find stories like theirs.

The beauty and richness of the Latino community goes beyond food and traditions. At the heart of the Latino community is an exceptionally resilient spirit that has sustained them through history and is helping to sustain America today through the most severe health and economic crises most of us has ever experienced. I am honored to represent so many of these hard-working families in my State and look forward to see how they continue to inspire us to keep building a better America for everyone.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
MEMORIAL

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, we celebrate the 130th birthday of America's 34th President and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary