

the law—not just the hot-button issues that people think of when they watch the news, but he was delving into arcane details of the law that really made me proud to have him representing me in the U.S. Senate from the State of Utah.

I got to know Senator Hatch even better after I got elected to the Senate, and he and I had the opportunity to work together as colleagues. Throughout all these experiences, I have come to revere him as someone who reveres the law.

For these reasons, I conclude that it is fitting for us to name this Federal courthouse in Utah after him. It is difficult to imagine anyone who has had the same impact on the Federal judiciary who has ever lived in or served from our State as Senator Hatch.

Madam President, I would like to yield some time to my colleague, the Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Senator LEE, thank you for your excellent remarks with regard to Senator Orrin Hatch. I rise to second what you said and to add a few words, some duplicative.

As you indicated, Senator Hatch dedicated his life to serving our country and our State, and he served in this body for some 42 years—a remarkable and extraordinary career of public service. And, of course, he was one of the longest serving chairmen of the Senate Judiciary Committee and, therefore, played a pivotal role in confirming many, many current and now-retired Supreme Court Justices. And while serving as chairman, he also helped shepherd hundreds of district and appellate judges through confirmation, including the majority of Utah's Federal judges.

His impact on the State of Utah is not just professional but also personal. Virtually anybody who stopped Senator Hatch and asked his opinion on a topic—he would stop, shake their hand, smile, and give them a full rapt attention. He is a tall drink of water, so you have to look up to Senator Hatch.

I came to him, following the crisis of 9/11, asking for his help in securing essential security funding for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002. Senator Hatch immediately took me to meet with other Senators, and he, along with others, was able to secure the funding necessary to make sure that our games were safe and were ultimately produced successfully in a way that made them the most successful Olympic Winter Games in history. He was and is an honorable public servant who continues to have tremendous impact on our State; therefore, it is only appropriate that Utah's Federal courthouse be named in his honor, and I am glad to support this legislation.

I yield my time back to Senator LEE.

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent that S. 4902 be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4902) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4902

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. ORRIN G. HATCH UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, shall be known and designated as the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I am grateful my colleagues have chosen to allow this to pass into law. It is a great day for Senator Hatch, the State of Utah, and the United States.

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.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued**

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

**CORONAVIRUS**

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the United States surpassed 11 million COVID-19 cases this past week. This comes just 6 days after our Nation recorded 10 million cases—1 million added to the 10 million in 6 days—making it the fastest transmission of 1 million new cases since the pandemic began. Nearly a quarter of a million Americans have died. This runaway crisis is alarming, it is deadly, and it demands action.

The city of Chicago began a stay-at-home advisory to help encourage people to contain the virus in our communities. Across Illinois, more than 5,000 patients have been hospitalized with COVID-19 each night for the past week. We have shattered new infection records nearly every day this month. Illinois has now experienced more than 597,000 cases, and we have sadly lost 10,875. My heart goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one.

In addition to trying to keep ourselves and our loved ones healthy and safe from the virus, Americans have also been struggling to deal with economic uncertainty, job loss, food insecurity, childcare—the list goes on and on and on. Here we are just days before Thanksgiving, and many of our neighbors are trying to pick the right day to go to the food bank so they can feed their families on this day of thanks.

Where is the sense of urgency on Capitol Hill when it comes to providing another round of economic impact payments, enhanced unemployment bene-

fits, funding for the food stamps—the SNAP program? Our country is in desperate need of help, and they are counting on us.

You would think a crisis of this scale would be the first order of business for the Republican-controlled Senate this week. Yet, while this pandemic continues to rage, too many Republicans in Congress refuse to even come to the table to negotiate a comprehensive, bipartisan relief bill. There are those who will, and I commend them. It takes real courage. Instead, their leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has scheduled votes this week on six barely qualified judicial nominees. The average age of this week's judicial nominees is 38.

You see, these are lifetime appointments. If you get somebody with the right answers to their political questions, then they will give you 20, 30, or more years while you have control of that court, and control of the court is more important, obviously, than coronavirus.

The youngest one of these nominees is Kathryn Mizelle. She is 33 years old. The American Bar Association took a look at her record and judged her “not qualified.” This is the 10th Trump nominee for a lifetime appointment to the Federal court who has been judged “not qualified” by the American Bar Association. You might say: I am sure that happens. Well, it didn't happen at all in the 8 years of the Obama Presidency. Not a single nominee who was judged “unqualified” was sent to Congress.

Another nominee, Stephen Vaden, who has been nominated for a lifetime position at the Court of International Trade, has never appeared before the Court of International Trade. He has never tried a case in any court. He will be a great judge once he figures it out.

We voted on Dr. Judy Shelton's nomination to the Federal Reserve Board. She is uniquely unqualified. Her economic views are almost humorous, they are so out of touch with reality. We are experiencing the worst recession in 75 years, and Dr. Shelton, by her stated views, is unprepared to contribute to dealing with this economic crisis.

It is the story of the 116th Congress. The Republican-controlled Senate spends month after month after month ignoring a raging pandemic and refusing to even consider the House-passed relief legislation.

Here is a good question for Members of the Senate: How many amendments has the Senate voted on this calendar year of 2020? Not counting impeachment—set that aside. But how many amendments to legislation have we considered in this calendar year? The answer is 27—27 amendments in this calendar year. That is an improvement, incidentally. In 2019, we considered exactly 22 amendments. Six of them were forced on us by Senator RAND PAUL of Kentucky, who basically said: I won't let you go home until you vote on this amendment. And, as Senator PAUL has

said, of course he lost every one of those amendments.

Twenty-seven amendments in 1 year; 22 the previous year. Do you know why? We don't legislate. We don't debate. We don't offer amendments. We don't pass bills. We come here with a new set of nominations every week from the Republican majority. We don't have any legislation on the pandemic. We have no legislation on economic recovery. We just have to get these lifetime appointees, some who have been found categorically unqualified. That is what this Senate is all about.

In this last week before the Thanksgiving recess, is this really all we are going to do? How about the 28 rural hospitals in Kentucky that are facing the risk of closure? How about the \$1.3 billion of uncompensated losses for these hospitals across Kentucky? The Republican proposal a few weeks ago didn't provide any economic relief for hospitals, clinics, or healthcare providers like those.

Americans need leadership. They need for the Senate to step up and say: For goodness' sake, whatever the political agenda is here, how can it be more important than this pandemic?

Isn't there enough talent or will on the floor of the Senate—on the Republican side and on the Democratic side—to find a way to help Americans who are struggling, to provide unemployment assistance, to provide help to small businesses, these restaurants and small businesses that are facing closure, to give some money to local units of government that through no fault of their own lost revenue to this COVID-19 crisis? These are not wild ideas; these address the very basics that face families, businesses, and governments across this country. For some reason, that particular issue can't make the agenda.

#### PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. President, losing an election hurts. I know. I lost three elections before I ever won one. I suspect that anyone who has ever lost an election has had to grapple with the disappointments, the what-ifs, and even a kind of sadness, bordering on anger, but that is the risk you take when you run for office. The voters have the last word.

Never, until now, have we ever heard it suggested that a losing Presidential candidate ought to be allowed to put America's national security at risk because he is struggling mightily to accept his own loss in the election. Never, until now, have we tolerated a losing Presidential candidate's deliberately undermining Americans' faith in the integrity of our electoral system.

Never before have we witnessed a losing Presidential candidate refuse, out of spite and anger, to follow the law and allow the peaceful, orderly transfer of power to his successor. Never before now could many Americans even imagine an outgoing President deliberately sabotaging our Nation's heroic efforts

to bring an end to the deadliest health crisis in our country, but that is what is happening. It is shocking. It is dangerous. It is shameful. It needs to stop now.

Some of my Republican colleagues ask: What harm can it do? We want to humor the President. He is going through a period of adjustment here. He lost an election. It hurts. The poor President—we have to stick with him. We have to parrot his theories of how there will be massive numbers of votes discovered somewhere. We know that he is raging in his tweets regularly. So he still must be in pain, the poor man, and we have to humor him. We have to tell him: Yes, Mr. President. You must be right. This election must have been stolen from you.

Let me tell you what harm it can do. Every minute of every hour, an American dies from COVID-19. Every day, 1,000 Americans are dying from COVID. That is nearly a 50-percent increase from a month ago. We are nearing 1 million new COVID infections every week. The pandemic is surging in every single State, and public health experts warn the worst is yet to come.

Over the weekend, we learned that President Trump has not attended a single meeting of the White House's coronavirus task force in 5 months. He told us why. I am tired of this COVID-19, he says. He has gone AWOL. By refusing to concede the results of the election, President Trump is preventing our Federal health officials from meeting with President-Elect Biden's COVID task force and starting to coordinate the efforts for the transition that is going to take place on January 20, and failing to put the time, personnel, and resources into the distribution of a vaccine, which we pray to God will be available soon. In doing this, the President is jeopardizing America's ability to successfully distribute a COVID vaccine and bring this pandemic, once and for all, under control.

He is deepening our Nation's economic crisis because the first step to healing our economy is in defeating this virus—all because of the pain he is going through personally. Well, I wish I could share that pain, but I am overwhelmed by the pain of America's going through a pandemic. The President's hurt feelings don't compare. The grief of losing an election is nothing compared to the grief of 246,000 American families who have lost loved ones to this pandemic. That is the grief we ought to be concerned about.

More Americans voted in these elections than ever before—in history. Now that the election is over, the results are clear: President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris received 306 electoral votes versus 232 electoral votes for President Trump and Vice President PENCE. Four years ago, the President referred to exactly the same vote totals in his favor as a landslide. Today, he refuses to acknowledge them. He is so full of himself that he

can't feel the pain of others. Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS received at least 5 million more votes than President Trump and Vice President PENCE. That is the largest popular vote margin of victory in a Presidential election since 1932.

In the 2 weeks since the election has ended, the Trump campaign and its allies have decided to strike back and file a flurry of lawsuits in six different States, challenging the vote counts. Well, how are they doing? These lawsuits have only affirmed the integrity of the election results that we knew. Many of the complaints have been dismissed, and not a single vote has been invalidated. Even Trump campaign officials privately and publicly agree that none of the remaining legal challenges can change the outcome of the election.

Last Thursday, members of the Election Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council, within this administration's own Department of Homeland Security, called the 2020 election "the most secure in American history."

Over the weekend, a senior Federal election official who was nominated by President Trump condemned the President's false postelection claims of vote fraud, calling them baffling, laughable, and insulting. The same official warned "these conspiracy theories that are flying around have consequences."

They are dangerous to our national security. Over the weekend, John Bolton, who is President Trump's former National Security Advisor, urged Republican leaders to finally acknowledge Mr. Trump's defeat and get on with it.

Another former Trump security adviser, LTG H.R. McMaster, rejected Mr. Trump's claim on Twitter that the Presidential election was rigged. "What the President says in this tweet—it's just wrong," the general said. "It's regrettable, it's counterproductive."

John Kelly, once Chief of Staff to the same President, told POLITICO that a delayed transition was detrimental to the country's national security. His concerns were echoed by more than 150 former national security, senior military, and elected officials who called on the leader of the General Services Administration, Ms. Emily Murphy, to recognize the election of President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect HARRIS.

Yet Administrator Murphy refuses to gauge what is known as "ascertainment" to establish who the real winners were. She continues to deny President-Elect Biden and his team access to resources and the knowledge they need to begin the massive task of setting up a new government. Administrator Murphy's actions are in defiance of the Federal Presidential Transition Act, the law that has governed the transfer of Presidential power in America since 1963.

Quite stunningly, what we are hearing from our American President—the