

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

HONORING OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate returns to session in the shadow of tragedy. A week ago last Friday, the senseless attack on the Capitol by a lone actor injured one Capitol Police officer and claimed the life of another, Officer William "Billy" Evans.

All of us in the Capitol and all of us across the Nation wish for the speedy recovery of Officer Shaver and mourn the loss of another fallen hero.

To pay tribute to his final act of bravery, Officer Evans will lie in honor under the Capitol Rotunda, at the very center of the democracy he gave his life to protect. A service in his memory will take place tomorrow morning.

For everyone who works in the Senate, his loss is particularly painful. He was a familiar face who greeted lawmakers, reporters, staffers, and employees at the north entrance as we entered the Senate side of the building. Whether you knew him or not, his wide smile was often the first thing you would see in the morning.

This has been an immensely difficult few months for members of the Capitol Police Force and for everyone who works behind the scenes to safeguard the Capitol Complex. Senate committees are conducting bipartisan and comprehensive reviews to ensure the Capitol is as secure as possible while also remaining accessible to the public. That is a top priority.

But also, in this moment of profound loss, we need to comfort each other and support members of the Capitol Police, who, in 4 short months, have suffered a brutal attack by a violent mob and lost four of their friends and cherished colleagues. We must never, never take for granted the work they do, day in and day out, to guard this citadel of democracy.

I will have more to say tomorrow when we pay tribute to the life of Officer Evans. For now, I wish to extend my deep condolences to his friends and family, especially his two young children, and everyone whose lives were enriched by knowing this incredible, incredible public servant.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Now, Madam President, on an entirely other matter, as the Senate returns to work this week, we are going to pick right back up where we left off in aggressively filling the Biden administration with well-qualified nominees and pursuing timely legislation that meets the needs of the American people.

This week, the Senate will vote on the nominations of Polly Trottenberg to serve as Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Wendy Sherman to serve as

Deputy Secretary of State, Gary Gensler to serve on the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Brenda Mallory to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality. Each is exceptionally well qualified for the respective position and each, I expect, will receive bipartisan support here on the floor.

I am particularly proud of Polly Trottenberg, who was my legislative director and legislative assistant on Transportation, I believe it was, for 9 years. She then served as commissioner of transportation in New York City. One of the things, of course, that I talked to her about regularly was getting Gateway, our much needed tunnel, built under the Hudson—so needed by New York, New Jersey, and the entire Northeast corridor.

The Senate will also vote on whether to debate legislation from Senator HIRONO and Representative MENG to address the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID pandemic.

Over the past year, we have read horrible accounts of violence and discrimination against Asian Americans, spurred on by ignorance and xenophobia and the vicious slander that blames the Chinese people for COVID-19—slander that was often encouraged and repeated so regrettably—I so regret that a President would stoop to that level—by the former President, who seemed to almost revel in advancing bigotry.

Sadly, the recent spate of anti-Asian violence is not a new chapter in American history. From the Chinese massacre of 1871 to the explicitly racist Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of Japanese-American citizens, and the shameful Korematsu Supreme Court decision, the Asian-American community has long suffered the hammer blows of racism and bigotry.

We cannot let this new surge, which contains echoes of these violent chapters in our history, go unaddressed. So, this week, the Senate will vote on Senator HIRONO's anti-Asian hate crimes bill, and I know the Presiding Officer is a proud sponsor of that legislation.

The bill does two things.

First, it tells the Department of Justice they need to make consideration of these hate crimes a top priority during this pandemic. There is a scourge of abuse happening to the Asian-American community—shamefully aided and abetted by former President Trump—and it needs to be prioritized by law enforcement more than it is right now.

Second, it sends a very important signal from the Congress of the United States to the American public: These crimes will not be tolerated, and there will be consequences.

This legislation is as commonsense and straightforward as it gets. It is as unobjectionable as it gets. I should expect our work on Senator HIRONO's hate crimes bill to be thoroughly bipartisan. President Biden has urged Congress to swiftly pass this legislation and send it to his desk. Let's get it done this week.

I attended four or five—maybe even more—rallies against anti-Asian violence, and I was heartsick to hear the stories: an elderly man afraid to just walk out on the street that he might be ridiculed, spat upon and a young lady who didn't want to travel the subways because of the glares and stares at her from some people because of her Asian ancestry. The stories could be repeated over and over again, and, unfortunately, this bigotry has often ended in violence.

We must stop it as Americans. We all know—every one of us—that racism against one is racism against all. We must stop it. Again, I plead with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to let this legislation go forward—it seems so unobjectionable—and pass with a strong bipartisan vote. Again, let's get it done this week.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Madam President, on infrastructure, finally, over the next several months, the Biden administration has said that it will push a comprehensive infrastructure and jobs bill in coordination with Congress. This effort could not come at a better time. The American Rescue Plan is already delivering on its promise to lift the country out of the COVID crisis and set our economy back on the path to recovery.

Over the State work period, I visited scores of restaurants, like Essie's in Mount Carmel and Russo's Grill in Amsterdam, that are now receiving a crucial lifeline of assistance from the American Rescue Plan. I visited small and independent stages and venues, like the Bug Jar in Rochester, which will soon receive grants through the Save our Stages Act, and I met with community organizations to hear about how New York families are receiving thousands of dollars per child through the expanded child tax credit—or will be receiving, rather. That is a policy that is going to lift millions of American children out of poverty during a time of economic hardship for so many.

The American Rescue Plan is helping the country recover from the worst public health crisis in a century and the worst economic crisis in three-quarters of a century. Now, not later, is the time to build on that solid foundation to create jobs and cement a robust economy.

The next big step is a long overdue investment and a large and significant investment in our Nation's infrastructure. We know that our Nation's roads and bridges and railways and waterways and ports are in need of an overhaul. So too does our country need investment in modern infrastructure projects, like our electric grid, broadband internet access, and 5G, just to name a few. President Biden's proposal will address both our traditional infrastructure needs and invest in 21st century infrastructure projects that America sorely needs.

Again, this very important work should be bipartisan. This is an issue

that affects all 50 States. Our two parties used to agree on the need to reliably invest in infrastructure. We should be able to do that again. President Biden is hosting bipartisan discussions about his proposal at the White House today and will continue to bring lawmakers and stakeholders together to find common ground. I know that the administration is going to talk to Members from both sides of the aisle to incorporate their ideas.

Every day now, millions of Americans are getting the vaccine—4 million on 1 day over the weekend—and we are closer than ever to defeating the COVID-19 pandemic. The worst of COVID-19 is, hopefully, in the rear view mirror. The streets of New York City, this weekend as I wandered about, were more alive than I have seen them in months. Soon we will have an opportunity to work together to strengthen our recovery and create the jobs of the future. A big, bold investment in our Nation's infrastructure is just the way to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

PERMITTING THE REMAINS OF THE LATE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS TO LIE IN HONOR IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 27, which was received today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) permitting the remains of the late United States Capitol Police Officer William F. Evans to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) was agreed to.

DIRECTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO TRANSFER THE CATAFALQUE SITUATED IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER TO THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICES CONDUCTED FOR UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unani-

mous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 28, which was received today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 28) directing the Architect of the Capitol to transfer the catafalque situated in the Capitol Visitor Center to the rotunda of the Capitol for use in connection with services conducted for United States Capitol Police Officer William F. Evans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 28) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have one short issue and another issue of about 10 minutes.

Over the Easter break, I held a Q&A in 24 counties to hear what was on the minds of Iowans. It was my constituents' agenda, not my agenda, that we discussed. From my cattle market transparency bill to Second Amendment issues, COVID-19 vaccines, and the crisis at the southern border, Iowans are always up to date on the issues most important to them.

One prominent question: Why can't you guys in the Senate get along? In other words, "Why not more bipartisanship?" is a constant question I get.

Iowans want Congress to work in a bipartisan way to enhance our Nation's infrastructure through increased funding for roads, bridges, highways, waterways, and rural broadband, among many other infrastructure issues.

Unfortunately, what I have heard so far about President Biden's plan is that it is everything but the kitchen sink and not enough focus on just the big, big issue and the long-term issue of infrastructure.

Iowans expect us to work in a bipartisan way, and I hope Democrats will agree to work together with us, unlike the passage of the \$1.9 trillion bill.

SECTION 230 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

I recently spoke on the Senate floor about the important issue of free speech. Today, I would like to speak on the power of Big Tech to censor free speech.

It has been 25 years since section 230 of the Communications Act was signed into law. This law grants wide-sweep-

ing immunity to interactive computer services that host third-party content.

The goal of section 230 at the time was laudable. The internet was in its infancy, and content being posted to message boards by third parties was leading to litigation that threatened the spread of free speech and expression. Section 230 was enacted to encourage free speech, while giving companies the ability to remove illegal and obscene materials.

Section 230 and the legal shield it offers helped to enable the internet to grow into what we know this very day. However, interactive computer services are no longer struggling companies but some of the largest corporations in the world today. Would you believe that when section 230 was signed into law, the words "Google," "Facebook," "Twitter," and "YouTube" did not even exist as words or companies? Today, they are giant, dominant tech companies.

Many argue that these private companies have their own terms of service and are able to enforce them as they wish and also that they are not covered under the First Amendment. Yet, these platforms are now the new public square, where it is important that all voices and viewpoints are able to be heard.

With the immunities that these companies have and the importance of dialogue on their platforms, arguably they are in effect state actors, and therefore First Amendment protections should apply to user-generated content.

The size and power of these companies also contribute to their ability to censor speech and undermine the First Amendment. Google controls 87 percent of search, Facebook has 2.8 billion monthly active users, 500 million tweets are sent on Twitter each day, and over 1 billion hours of videos are watched on YouTube every day.

When a campaign has monopoly power, it no longer is constrained by normal market forces. If these platforms had competitors, consumers could choose alternatives when they disagree with the terms of service or moderation policies. However, right now, the only choice consumers have is to take it or leave it.

Section 230 appears to compound this problem. Big Tech has no competitors and is immune from liability. These companies are unaccountable to their customers, the courts, and the government. If not for their monopoly power and section 230 immunity, these companies might not be involved in the actions and the censorship we see today. These platforms are where people communicate online, and there are no real alternatives.

This innovation has democratized our political system. I think that is good. Yet, there are people who don't like that every person is able to get their views out, and they want to interfere with and censor those views. We cannot stand for this cancel culture and the interference with free speech.