

Trump, that it was about our country, and that those who refuse to vote to convict are condoning the actions of a violent mob and failing to defend the honor of our Capitol and the people who work here. This is a ridiculous and insulting argument.

Impeachment is not a way of sending a message or taking symbolic action. Impeachment exists for one principal reason: to remove from office an officeholder guilty of wrongdoing. And claiming that anyone who doesn't vote to convict someone no longer in office is the equivalent of supporting a criminal mob is nothing but hyperpartisan politicians masquerading as high-minded prosecutors trying to smear their political opponents.

The Senate does not have the constitutional power to convict a former official, and even if we did, we should be very reluctant to use it. In the 244-year history of our Republic, we have never convicted and disqualified a former official in an impeachment trial. Doing so now would create a new precedent, and it would weaponize impeachment in a way we will come to regret.

The day will come when a future Congress, one with a new majority in the House filled with new Members elected on the promise of holding accountable leaders of the opposite part, will give in to these passions and impeach a former official. The Senate will then find itself conducting a trial of that former official, a trial justified by the precedent we are asked to set here today, and a Senate tempted to convict by the tantalizing opportunity to disqualify that official from future public office.

My fear of creating dangerous precedents is not new. Two years ago, I was accused by some in my party of being a traitor because I opposed using an emergency declaration to fund a border wall that I supported. I warned then that a future Democratic President would do the same thing to fund a Green New Deal. And now, just 2 years later, leading Democrats are calling for that very thing.

The lead manager admitted today that, for the Democrats and their enablers working in the legacy media, the purpose of this trial was not to hold the former President accountable. The real purpose of this trial was to tar and feather not just the rioters, but anyone who supported the former President and any Senator who refuses to vote to convict.

I voted to acquit former President Trump because I will not allow my anger over the criminal attack of January 6 nor the political intimidation from the left to lead me into supporting a dangerous constitutional precedent.

The election is over. A new President is in the White House, and a new Congress has been sworn in. Let history and, if necessary, the courts judge the events of the past. We should be focused on the serious challenges of the

present and preparing our country to confront the serious tests it will face in the future.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, during this impeachment trial, our country has re-lived the chilling and un-American assault on the foundations of our democracy. New video footage reinforced both the brutality of the rioters and also the heroism of members of law enforcement who—just barely—prevented further loss of life. The personal threat of that day, however, is not nearly as troubling as the threat to our democracy.

After listening to the arguments from the House Managers and former President Donald Trump's defense, I voted to convict the former President. As dangerous as Donald Trump's actions were over the course of the months, days, and hours leading up to the violent insurrection, my vote was less about holding Trump as an individual accountable than it was about protecting our country from similar threats in the future, at his hands or at the hands of others.

Impeachment is not designed to punish—it was included in our Constitution to protect the Republic from abuses of power and tyranny. I voted to protect the America that we know and love because January 6, 2021, will be our future if we tolerate what the impeachment trial showed was Trump's concerted campaign to prevent the peaceful transition of power.

Of all the things former President Trump did, it is actually what he did not do once he knew the Capitol was being attacked and his own Vice President, among others, was being threatened that was most troubling.

Should there be any doubt that Trump intended to disrupt the certification of votes and encourage the violence that desecrated the Capitol, his decision to allow it to continue for hours should dispel that uncertainty.

If he had not intended the violence when it began, his failure to exercise his power to secure the Capitol and protect those inside was itself a violation of his oath of office and merits conviction and disqualification from holding future office.

Before Trump's refusal to engage in the peaceful transfer of power, the public could gather outside the Capitol; families could play soccer on the weekends, and tourists could take photos of this temple of democracy. Before COVID, the public could even walk right in, after being properly screened. But throughout the impeachment trial, we came to work through fences and barbed wire. There was no open space for the public because we have lost the common understanding that the Capitol is place where we spar with words, not physical violence.

It is fitting that the trial concluded right before we mark the birthday of George Washington, who helped establish some of the bedrock principles of our democracy not simply through his service as our first President, but by

voluntarily surrendering the office, peacefully.

Our union that Washington helped birth and that Lincoln managed to preserve is still fragile, and it cannot be taken for granted. We will need to continue the work of investigating what led to the grim events of January 6 as well as what happened on that day, and we will need to take steps to make clear that acts of tyranny will not be tolerated in our country.

We have considerable work ahead to bring our country together and strive for greater opportunity for all, both in the face of this pandemic and beyond. I am committed to continuing that work and showing the American people and the world that we are resilient, strong, and willing to renew our commitment to government of, for, and by the people.

Thank you.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of February 13, 2021, the following reports of committees were submitted on February 19, 2021:

By Mr. WYDEN, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment: S. Res. 63. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS DURING ADJOURNMENT

On February 19, 2021, under the authority of the order of the Senate of February 13, 2021, the following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. Res. 63. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Finance; from the Committee on Finance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS DURING ADJOURNMENT FEBRUARY 19, 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION 63—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. WYDEN submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Finance; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 63

Resolved, That, in carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Finance is authorized from March 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021; October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022; and October 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, in its discretion (1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (2) to employ personnel, and (3) with the

prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. (a) The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021, under this resolution shall not exceed \$5,527,337, of which amount (1) not to exceed \$17,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed \$5,833 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(b) For the period October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$9,475,434, of which amount (1) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(c) For the period October 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$3,948,098, of which amount (1) not to exceed \$12,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed \$4,166 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

SEC. 3. The committee shall report its findings, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than February 28, 2021.

SEC. 4. Expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee, except that vouchers shall not be required (1) for the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate, or (2) for the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate, or (3) for the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery, United States Senate, or (4) for payments to the Postmaster, United States Senate, or (5) for the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate, or (6) for the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services, or (7) for payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

SEC. 5. There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee from March 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021; October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022; and October 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, to be paid from the Appropriations account for Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, Co-Chair and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 7002, the Minority Leader appoints the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Dr. Derek M. Scissors of Bethesda, Maryland.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 7002, the Minority Leader appoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Alex N. Won of Wyckoff, New Jersey.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 8, 117th Congress, the Minority Leader appoints the following Member to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to serve as the Republican Co-Chairman: The Honorable CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH of New Jersey.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 8, 117th Congress, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member to serve as Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission: Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts.

The message further announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. BEYER of Virginia and Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2(b) of Public Law 116-156, as amended by Public Law 116-260, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys: Dr. Joseph E. Marshall, Jr. of San Francisco, California.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 2(b) of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act (Public Law 116-156), amended by section 201 of title II, division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, the Minority Leader appoints the following member to the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys: Mr. Marshall B. Dillard of Bakersfield, California.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 64. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY, from the Special Committee on Aging, without amendment:

S. Res. 65. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging.

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on the Budget, without amendment:

S. Res. 66. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. Res. 69. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 331. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 332. A bill to authorize the President to use military force for the purpose of securing and defending Taiwan against armed attack, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 333. A bill to amend title XI and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide funding for State strike teams, technical assistance, and infection control for resident and worker safety in skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 334. A bill to establish an alternative payment model demonstration project for maternity care provided to pregnant and postpartum individuals under State Medicaid and CHIP programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BURR):