

ground since the outset: Kentucky National Guard, Kentucky State Police, sheriff's departments, city and local law enforcement, EMS responders, firefighters, doctors, and nurses. Quick thinking and selfless action saved lives.

Hard-hit communities are receiving an outpouring of support from across the Commonwealth as well as around the country. Americans near and far are coming together to donate food, blood, resources, and shelter to those in need. Businesses and individuals have helped fund relief efforts and donated to assist the storm's victims.

Like many of my fellow Kentuckians, I was incredibly touched by the support offered by the University of Kentucky basketball team this past weekend. While visiting the University of Notre Dame, they led a deeply emotional moment of silence before their game on Saturday night. The team visited the school's grotto to light candles for storm victims and to pray for recovery. We are all praying alongside them.

Kentucky's State motto is "United we stand, divided we fall." In this time of crisis, Kentuckians are standing shoulder to shoulder, and we will not fail. At every level of local, State, and Federal Government across both political parties, Kentucky's leaders have come together to coordinate and to provide aid.

Toward the end of the week, I will travel back to Kentucky to meet with my constituents and visit the areas affected by the storm. My team has been working nonstop to ensure Kentuckians receive the help that they need.

I have worked closely with President Biden and Governor Beshear to ensure every Federal resource possible is deployed to our State. Kentucky's congressional delegation has come together to send multiple letters to the President in support of disaster relief. In response, President Biden cut through the redtape to approve our requests at an accelerated pace, providing the rapid support we need to recover.

I am especially grateful for the work of DHS Secretary Mayorkas and FEMA Administrator Criswell, who visited Kentucky yesterday to survey damage and to help relief efforts. FEMA has already sent two incident management teams, an urban search and rescue team, and an Army Corps temporary power team. They have turned Kentucky's Fort Campbell into a staging ground for vital relief and supplies. I could not be more grateful for their swift and decisive response to this crisis.

Even in the face of such tragedy, we can be confident that Kentucky will bounce back. We are strong; we are united; and we will come back bigger and better than ever before.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

KENTUCKY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today the prayers of the Senate extend

to all of those impacted by the deadly tornadoes that broke out across the South and Midwest over the weekend. We pray and mourn especially for the people of Kentucky, where far too many lives have been lost and the full extent of the damage has yet to be determined.

Over the weekend, President Biden declared a state of emergency in Kentucky, authorizing FEMA to coordinate disaster relief and provide emergency assistance. He also announced he will travel this week to Kentucky to assess the damage and receive briefings of recovery efforts.

It is likely that the storms from this weekend will go down as some of the worst tornado outbreaks on record, and with heavy hearts we will continue to monitor rescue and first response efforts in the coming days.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on another matter, this week the Senate has a lot to get done as we approach the end of the year.

Over the course of the week, we expect to hold a number of votes to confirm more of President Biden's nominees to serve lifetime appointments to the Federal bench. On that front, we will later vote this afternoon on the confirmation of Judge Lucy Koh to serve as a circuit judge for the Ninth District Court of Appeals. Her nomination was favorably reported out of the committee with bipartisan support.

If confirmed, Judge Koh would be the first-ever Korean-American woman to sit on any circuit court in the country. The daughter of immigrants, her background is an inspiring testament to the American dream. Lucy's mom escaped as a child on foot from the oppression of North Korea, eventually coming to the States. Lucy spent the majority of her own upbringing in rural Mississippi, graduating from both Harvard and Harvard Law School.

For the last 11 years, Lucy Koh has served admirably as a district judge for the District of Northern California. She has authored over 3,000 opinions and presided in 270 cases—everything from the rights of criminal defendants in seeking legal representation to the protection of online consumer data in the hands of companies, to ensuring that the Trump administration did not prematurely end its completion of the 2020 census. She did all those things. She wrote on all those things and offered opinions.

All the while, she has conducted herself with impartiality, excellence, and above all, with fidelity to the Constitution and the rule of law. I have no doubt she will continue building on her excellent judicial record as an appellate judge on the Ninth Circuit, and I look forward to voting in favor of her confirmation later today.

Later this week, we will hold votes on other nominees as well, including Samantha Elliott to serve as a judge for the District of New Hampshire and Jennifer Sung to serve as a circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Once we confirm all three judges—Koh, Elliott, and Sung—the Senate will have confirmed a total of 31 judges to the Federal bench, 11 to the circuit courts, and 20 to the district courts. I am proud to say over half of them are women. Over half of them are people of color.

All of them are outstanding, highly qualified, and they bring sorely needed diversity to the bench—not just personal diversity but professional diversity as well. In decades past, it would have been hard imagining many of these nominees getting a serious look in this Chamber, but one by one, Senate Democrats are working with President Biden to expand the possibilities of who can and who should serve as a judge in this country, and we will keep working.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Madam President, now, on other Senate business and Build Back Better, in addition to making progress on nominees, the Senate has been doing the hard work of putting ourselves in a position to finish our other high-level priorities for the rest of the year.

Last week, we advanced bipartisan legislation that will enable this Chamber to address the debt ceiling on a fast-track basis. For the information of all, the Senate will act tomorrow to prevent default. The Senate will act tomorrow to prevent default.

The Senate could also begin processing the annual Defense authorization bill—negotiated on a bipartisan, bicameral basis—as early as tomorrow. Between now and the end of the year, Members should also expect we will hold votes to confirm even more of the President's nominees.

And on a parallel track, the Senate is moving forward on the reconciliation process so we can vote on President Biden's Build Back Better Act before the Christmas holiday. Committees that received reconciliation instructions have been submitting their final text to the Parliamentarian, the Congressional Budget Office, and to our Republican counterparts.

Throughout the week, both Republicans and Democrats will hold bipartisan Byrd bath meetings with the Parliamentarian. Meanwhile, I will also continue to meet with my colleagues, and I know the President will also continue discussions with them as we hammer out the final details of Build Back Better.

This remains a laborious process, requiring a lot of precision and a lot of pieces moving together. I want to thank my colleagues and their staff and especially the Parliamentarian and her team for their dedication and focus as we approach a vote on the floor.

The work is not yet finished, but we are working hard to put the Senate in a position to get the legislation across the finish line before Christmas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

KENTUCKY

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, a powerful tornado stretched across 200 miles, never leaving the land, and perhaps the longest streak of tornado destruction we have ever seen in the United States of America. And my heart goes out to all those families who have been so impacted, all those who are lost, all those who are without a home, all those whose lives have been turned upside down.

We, the Senate, must act to be supportive of our fellow Americans who have faced such incredible destruction.

CHINA

Madam President, I come today to the floor to address another tragedy—a tragedy unfolding in China, where the Olympic Games are scheduled to begin on February 4.

I come to the floor to applaud President Biden for speaking out and announcing a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 February Beijing Olympic Games. This is absolutely the right thing to do, and as Beijing's response has shown, it sends a clear signal to the world that the world will not silently stand by as human rights are so dramatically abused.

For 2 weeks in February, the world will join together in the bask of the spectacle of the Winter Games. We will experience the highs and lows, as athletes from around the globe experience themselves the thrills of victory and the agony of defeat.

Athletes heading to the Games dream of thrilling the world and winning medals, but they also dream of contributing to the Olympic spirit, a spirit often spoken of in terms of working to build a better world through sports, which is why it is so offensive that these Games are set to take place in the shadow of some of the world's most egregious assaults on human rights and human dignity.

It is mind-boggling to me that the International Olympic Committee chose just this past March to characterize their strategic roadmap of the 5 years using such lofty goals as the Games will “contribute to more inclusive society and to peace,” and yet allowing the Games to go on in a nation where genocide is taking place at this very moment. It is mind-boggling because it is not some small abuse that is taking place but one of the worst the world has ever seen.

The Chinese Government has been committing, and is continuing to commit, genocide against a religious minority, and they are stripping away the political rights of Hong Kong's citizens, and they are suppressing the free-rights speeches of Chinese activists and advocates and journalists and bullying China's critics at home and abroad.

We cannot allow China to use the shine of the Olympic medals to blind the world to these facts. We have seen this before, and philosophers say that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

So let's return to 1936, the Olympic Stadium, the Olympic flag flying

proudly not just in the stadium but throughout the city of Berlin for the summer Games right next to Nazi swastikas. It still shocks me to think of the world watching and cheering on as the Olympic torch was lit in a stadium filled with men and women giving the Nazi salute as Adolf Hitler watched on.

The Nazi regime had already started carrying out their racist, genocidal policies. They had already persecuted Jewish, German, and LGBTQ men and women, and labor activists and other minorities. They had already rounded up and jailed political opponents other nondesirables, including some 800 Roma in and around Berlin, who, just weeks before the start of the Games, were locked away in a camp outside the city.

But the world chose to look away from that unfolding horror. For 2 weeks during the Games, the Nazis took down their anti-Semitic signs, the propaganda ministry made newspapers ease up on hateful rhetoric, and the world praised the German government, legitimizing their regime with such fawning declarations as when the New York Times observed that the Games put Germany back in the fold of nations.

The world allowed itself to be beguiled by the Nazi facade. Behind that facade stood a violent, racist regime. Behind that facade was a government that controlled what the people living within its power could do and what they could say. Behind that facade was a regime that had no belief in anyone's basic human rights and that within 3 years was seeking to conquer the world while simultaneously murdering 6 million Jewish individuals and millions of other non-Jewish men, women, and children.

What if, instead of being taken in by the spectacle of the Games, and what if, instead of allowing the Nazis to use those Games for propaganda, the leaders of the world had stood up and pushed back? How much death and destruction might have been prevented? We will never know.

But what we do know is that we have the opportunity right now to learn from that past mistake and to do better.

Elie Wiesel once said: “There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”

We cannot fail to protest the Chinese Government's actions that stain the mission and purpose of the Olympics Games, because there is absolutely no question about the kinds of crimes and atrocities that are being committed by the Chinese Government at this very moment—atrocities like the enslavement and genocide against the Uighur Muslim minority being carried out in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. That genocide has been documented, it has been recognized, and it has been publicly announced by two different Presidential administrations.

That genocide completely reflects the United Nations' official definition of “a crime committed with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group in whole or in part.”

At the direction of President Xi of China, at least a million Uighurs are being detained and enslaved in camps in Xinjiang. They are forced to toil and work for the Chinese Government, producing cotton and other goods while undergoing reeducation programs where they are forced to renounce their faith and pledge loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party.

This is a process described in one official Chinese document as “washing brains, cleansing hearts, strengthening righteousness and eliminating evil.” It certainly is one of the most dramatic forms of evil taking place at this moment. That is what the Chinese Government is doing to the Uighur people.

The crimes against these individuals include torture, sleep deprivation, sexual abuse, rape, forced sterilizations, and abortions. One woman who fled the country after being released from a camp, who resides here now in the United States, recounted stories to reporters and human rights investigators of women being taken from their cells every night, brought to another room to be tortured and raped by one or more masked men. She, and another woman who was forced to help facilitate these assaults, have spoken about police officers paying good money to have their pick of the imprisoned women and girls. Those who are returned to their cells are threatened with even more pain and more torture if they say anything.

And these crimes and this repression aren't contained just to the camps. Millions in Xinjiang are subjected to Orwellian surveillance and discrimination, restricted from traveling or going to school, from freely speaking or freely worshipping. Meanwhile, the Chinese Government is systematically ripping children from their parents' arms, forcing them to live in state-run facilities where they are being indoctrinated to renounce their faith, ethnicity, and culture; to view their parents as China's enemies; and to praise the Communist Party.

All of that has been going on for years, at least since 2017, and all of it will still be going on as the International Olympic Committee and athletes from around the world gather in Beijing on February 4 for the opening ceremonies. And if the world is silent, if there are no protests or consequences, all that will serve simply to embolden the Chinese Government and their genocidal efforts.

Beijing's egregious actions don't stop with crimes against the Uighur people. We see those crimes in Hong Kong, where the Chinese Government is stripping the rights of Hongkongers, one day after another.

Back in 1998, China promised to adhere to the “one country, two systems” model. They signed a contract with