

state-owned entities are models of inefficiency and corruption, and whose economy is slowing.

I know that is a cold dish of truth, but that is what the world sees. If China cares about the world and if the people of China care about how the world sees China—and both do—China will reengage with the world, including the United States of America, not shrink from it.

So I end, Madam President, as I began. The United States and China need to talk. The United States and China need to talk, not just for the United States but also for China and for the world. And, frankly, China has the most to gain, given the deterioration of its reputation.

But it is entirely up to China. America, we have done our part, and the United States will continue to do its part. We want to talk. We are confident, but, lately, China's insecurities are loud.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NOMINATION OF DILAWAR SYED

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to reiterate my strong support for Dilawar Syed to serve as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Mr. Syed is highly qualified and widely supported as a nominee who has the backing of numerous business groups and organizations. In many ways, he is the picture of the American dream. He is a business owner, entrepreneur, and job creator who was born in Pakistan and educated in the United States. Over the course of his career, Mr. Syed has founded and run several companies in the tech and healthcare sectors.

He also has firsthand experience dealing with challenges small businesses faced during this pandemic. During the COVID-19 crisis, Mr. Syed chaired a task force to help other businesses in the State of California survive and rebuild from the pandemic. His experience in and commitment to the small business sector are clear. That is why over the past 2 years my Democratic colleagues and I have made a concerted effort to get Mr. Syed confirmed.

As Deputy Administrator, he would largely be responsible for running the day-to-day operations of the SBA. Working with Administrator Guzman, he will play a critical role in ensuring that small businesses across our country have the support they need to continue growing.

This work is vital to Hawaii's economy. More than 99 percent of the businesses in our State are small businesses, and nearly half of all employees

in Hawaii work for a small business. A strong, fully staffed Small Business Administration is essential for these small businesses in my home State and millions more across the country.

Despite his stellar qualifications and the importance of the SBA, for nearly 2 years my Republican colleagues have blocked Mr. Syed's nomination to serve in this important role. I sit on the Small Business Committee, and we have had numerous times where we would call a markup in order to enable a vote on Mr. Syed's nomination, and the Republicans would simply not bother to show up. They just wouldn't even bother to show up.

My Republican colleagues have at different points wrongly accused Mr. Syed of being anti-Israel. They have chastised him for utilizing legal SBA pandemic relief loans and raised other baseless objections to his nomination. One wonders why the Republicans so eagerly raise objections to nominees like Mr. Syed who are obviously qualified for their nominated positions. But despite their baseless bluster, the facts are clear: Mr. Syed is well qualified to serve as Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and his confirmation will make our economy and our country stronger.

While it never should have taken this long—2 years—I am glad that tomorrow this body will vote on Mr. Syed's nomination to serve as Deputy Administrator. As I said, it has taken far too long to have someone as qualified and as committed—to have his vote occur.

I look forward to voting to confirm Mr. Syed and to working with him to strengthen small businesses in every corner of our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

251ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE "GASPEE" RAID

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, every year, I come to the Senate floor around the anniversary of June 9 of 1772 to educate our pages—and anyone else listening—about an event that took place that night in Rhode Island as the United States moved towards its revolutionary conflict with Great Britain.

And the lead-up to this was that Rhode Island was a shipping and a trading State; and Newport, in particular, was an extremely wealthy and active trading community. And the British government very much wanted to tax all of that trading, and the Rhode Islanders very much wanted not to be taxed.

And so there was considerable back-and-forth between the colonists in Rhode Island and what was then the mother country. And when the obstreperousness of the Rhode Islanders reached a certain point, a new ship and a new captain were detailed to Rhode Island to do a better job of collecting taxes from the shipping traffic.

The captain was named Dudingston—Lieutenant Dudingston—of her majesty's royal Navy. And he came in with

a rather very poor attitude about Rhode Island and behaved quite badly. He seized ships without much provocation. He would grab them and send them off to be sold for salvage. He would steal cargoes out of ships.

He made himself extremely unpopular to a point that the chief justice of Rhode Island said: Excuse me, you don't get to do this. Under Rhode Island law, under our colonial charter, if you want to operate Rhode Island waters, you actually have to declare yourself and show your commission to our Governor.

And the rather undiplomatic response of Lieutenant Dudingston was, if anybody tries to interfere with my operations, I will hang them.

So things were not all that great between Lieutenant Dudingston and Rhode Island. And his ship, which is this one, was called the *Gaspee*, as in the Gaspé Peninsula up in Canada. She was an armed revenue cutter of fairly good size. And it was her job to basically pull over ships, search their cargoes, seize their cargoes, demand taxes, if necessary, seize the vessel.

One of his early seizures was a boat called the *Fortune*, which was owned by Nathanael Greene, who had not been particularly active in revolutionary matters until he had his fortune seized by Lieutenant Dudingston. And after that, he became quite active in revolutionary matters to the point of becoming, essentially, the adjutant for George Washington and then being sent by George Washington down to run the southern campaign of the revolution where the commanding British general in the Revolutionary War said: That damn Greene is more dangerous than Washington, because he was so successful running the southern campaign, much of it provoked by this Lieutenant Dudingston and his seizure of Greene's boat, the *Fortune*.

On this occasion, June 9, 1772, a boat called the *Hannah*, captained by Benjamin Lindsey, was sailing up Narragansett Bay to deliver cargo to Providence. And the *Gaspee* approached and signaled the *Hannah* to heave to, to be boarded and searched. And the *Hannah* refused. Captain Lindsey kept sailing.

So the *Gaspee* gave chase, and the two boats sailed, one after the other, with occasional gunfire from the decks of the *Gaspee* north towards Providence.

Before you get to Providence, there is a point that sticks out. And where the river flows in, there is a sand berm that sticks out into the bay. And Captain Lindsey, who knew the waters of Narragansett Bay very well, sailed over this sandy shallows off of what was called Namquit Point and kept going on his merry way up to Providence.

The *Gaspee* was a bigger vessel. It drew more water, and it ran into the sand berm in a falling tide. It was stuck. It was trapped. It was helpless.

The *Hannah* kept going up. Captain Lindsey went up to Providence. When he got to the Port of Providence, he

rounded up John Brown, who later became heavily involved in setting up Brown University, and another Rhode Island worthy named Abraham Whipple, who continued to have an interesting naval career.

Brown and Whipple and others went to Sabin's Tavern, and people beat drums in the street to get attention. People gathered, and a crowd assembled. After suitable refreshment, they filled in a number of long boats—five or six long boats. And that night, in the dark, with muffled oars, they rowed back down to the stranded *Gaspee*.

There they challenged Lieutenant Dudingston to surrender his vessel, and, when he refused, they rowed to the vessel and, from multiple sides, boarded it.

During the altercation, Lieutenant Dudingston was shot. I am pleased to report that he was not killed. He recovered from his wounds, retired, ultimately, from naval service, and went back to Scotland and raised many children. But the injury that he received, I believe, was actually the first blood spilled in what became the Revolutionary conflict between the Colonies and Great Britain.

So after they had seized the vessel, the Rhode Islanders bound up the crew and rowed them ashore. There is a pub right up the street, right now, from where they were rowed ashore, with a little monument you can see that recognizes the evening that they rode ashore, June 9, 1772. Then they went back out to the stranded *Gaspee* and set her afire.

Now, the *Gaspee* had cannons, and cannons use powder, and powder is kept in a magazine. So when the fire got to the powder magazine, this happened. The *Gaspee* was blown to smithereens, and that was the end of her predatory behavior in Rhode Island Sound and Narragansett Bay.

Now, by way of point of contrast, up in Massachusetts, more than a year later, a number of Massachusetts colonists went onboard a British ship, and they pushed tea bags off of the boat and into Boston Harbor, which, I am sure, was a very brave and wonderful thing to do. But from Rhode Island's perspective, we outsmarted the British, we got the boat stuck, we seized the boat, we captured the entire crew, and then we blew it up, more than a year before the tea bag incident in Boston Harbor. I think we are entitled to some credit for that.

But Massachusetts produced Adamses who became Presidents. They produced Harvard, which wrote histories. And the story of the Boston Tea Party is now known to—do you guys know the story? Yes, every page head nods. They know the Boston Tea Party story.

I don't know what Rhode Island has to do to get out of the shadow of the Boston Tea Party, but we blew the damn boat up and I think that is pretty good.

The final of the story is that King George was furious about this. He took

this as an enormous insult to his kingdom, to his crown, and to himself. And so he decreed that all of the insurgents who had rowed down in those boats were to be caught and were to be hanged. And a bounty was put for information leading to the identification of the Rhode Islanders who participated in the *Gaspee* raid.

I will say with some pride that no credible testimony ever emerged. The trials never took place. The nooses hung empty. And Rhode Island—against all of that pressure and with the allure of these bribes and bounties from the King—refused to give up their secrets. So it is a very strong story in many regards.

And we now have created a brandnew license plate. It is not out on cars yet, I don't believe. This one says "SAMPLE." But there is the Rhode Island license plate with the "*Gaspee* Days 1772" logo and the exploding *Gaspee* on it. I can't wait to get one and to drive it up to Massachusetts and park it near Boston Harbor and have some tea.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to bring attention to the issues that Americans are facing at home—the problems that I see and hear from my constituents in West Virginia, and I am sure the Presiding Officer hears many of the same in your home State. I want to raise the question as to why the Senate is not bringing some of the solutions to the floor.

As you know, I am a lifelong West Virginian. I care deeply about and understand the concern of our residents and the difficulties that our families are facing. Our families, our veterans, our small business owners, our manufacturers, law enforcement, and communities—they are struggling—what they are struggling with.

I was initially inspired to get involved in public service when I saw these local issues arising, and many of those I have tried to help face in my own home community of Charleston, WV. Later on, as the passion in me sort of grew, I decided to seek a bigger platform in the House of Representatives and, now, here in this esteemed body, the U.S. Senate. As public servants, it is our responsibility to not only put forth but to take action on issues that Americans are facing. We can do that to improve the lives of those we serve.

But it seems to me and it pains me that so many of the legislative solutions that we have come to work to craft—some of which are bipartisan—collect dust on the majority leader's

desk. In fact, that, to me, is very unacceptable.

Let's start with the issue that touches so many lives—the issue of addiction. Our country is in a deep and continued battle with an addiction crisis, something I raised multiple times on this Senate floor and something that I am committed to curbing and stopping. With the data available from the CDC—the latest report on drug overdose deaths—it is obvious that fentanyl, our clear and common enemy, is fueling the highest overdose rates we have seen for individuals between 25 and 44.

CDC provisional data released on May 17 also revealed that more than 100,000 Americans—100,000 Americans—died from drug overdoses in 2022, becoming the most deadly year on record. And some of those, I think—some of us in the Chamber tonight might know one or two people or at least families who are affected.

My colleagues and I have introduced legislation that will further coordinate efforts to disrupt the distribution of fentanyl, to block efforts to ship illicit drugs into the United States, and to improve law enforcement training to crack down on drug trafficking tactics.

In a crisis this deadly and urgent, time is of the essence, and these bills deserve the time to be considered. Yet, despite these alarming statistics and the commonsense solutions that we have put forward, the majority leader has refused to take any of these bills up on the Senate floor.

Regarding law enforcement, over the weekend we had one of the saddest things happen in our State of West Virginia. A West Virginia State trooper was tragically killed in the line of duty.

Our hearts are broken with the loss of Sergeant Cory Maynard. He was only 37 years old. He had a wife and two children. It is a very tragic, tragic story.

Our brave law enforcement officers defend communities across our States from crime and work incredibly hard to help keep our cities and towns safe. They are the first to answer the call. They continuously—continuously—show courage and heroism. There must be swift penalties in place for criminals who target our officers, and resources must be available to ensure their safety.

I joined several of my colleagues last month to introduce several pieces of legislation that support law enforcement officers and increase their safety. But I will say it again: The majority leader has yet to take up any of the legislation that we have offered.

Additionally, residents across my State and the entire country are still reeling with the elevated costs of all things—from housing, energy, food, and everyday essential items. And, as our economy continues to prove its weakness under President Biden, the hard-earned dollars of hard-working Americans do not stretch as far as they need to.