

never happened before and is unlikely to happen again, but, unfortunately, this has happened before, and it is reminiscent of the violent unrest that plagued our Nation with the BLM riots that happened during the summer of 2020.

We live in a democratic republic, not a banana republic. We are blessed to live in a country where we value and protect the rights of citizens to speak freely. We live in a country with universal suffrage, where citizens can bring their disagreements with their government officials to the ballot box.

But placing bombs and lighting cars on fire is not an appropriate means of expressing dissenting views in a country like the one we are blessed to live in. We are so much better than that.

For this reason, I was disappointed to see one of my fellow Texans in our congressional delegation go so far as to condone these kinds of activities. Congresswoman JASMINE CROCKETT recently made comments encouraging violent protests at a virtual rally. She said, and I quote—these are her words, not mine. She said:

All I want to see happen on my birthday is for Elon to be taken down.

Well, that could be interpreted any one of a number of ways, but I believe it is wrong to wish on any American, much less a fellow Texan, and I would expect better than this sort of incendiary rhetoric from a Member of Congress who was elected to her position because of the very democracy we are fortunate to enjoy.

But this isn't the only thing she said recently that has raised eyebrows and resulted in condemnation. Congresswoman CROCKETT recently commented that our Governor, Gov. Greg Abbott—who happens to be a paraplegic as a result of a terrible accident years ago—she referred to him as “Governor Hot Wheels,” presumably because he is in a wheelchair due to an accident decades ago.

And then Senator CRUZ, my colleague, the junior Senator from Texas, she said should “be knocked over the head, like hard.”

This is disgraceful, and we should call it for what it is. We have a duty as elected officials to bring out the best in our country, not to take the low road. And, particularly, we should not encourage harm against people we don't particularly agree with. This is a disturbing trend in political rhetoric, one that has turned to violence—again, not for the first time, but we should condemn it, and we should shut it down now.

These events should serve as a wake-up call that it is past time to turn down the temperature. I believe that all Americans and all Texans deserve better.

I yield the floor.

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.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS DEJOY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I will be brief. I know we are coming up on a vote.

I just wanted to come to the floor and thank my friend and fellow North Carolinian, Louis DeJoy, for his service as Postmaster General. He announced a few weeks back his intent to resign, and that has been accelerated. Hopefully, he will come back and continue to provide advice on a transition plan for the U.S. Postal Service that is unlike any transition in the Postal Service's modern history.

Louis DeJoy is a very successful businessperson who many people believe was appointed to Postmaster General because he has also historically been a big supporter of President Trump, but the reality is that Louis DeJoy was identified by the Postal Service Board through a nationwide search as one of the most capable people in the United States to be Postmaster General. That is because he had built an idea around a kitchen table of an enterprise that ultimately became a business that, when it was sold, was nearly worth \$1 billion, in transportation and logistics.

Louis came to the Postal Service a little less than 5 years ago and really shook things up, but in the process of doing that, I believe he has created a plan that is a best practice for what we are attempting to do with the Department of Government Efficiency. He has gone across the Nation. He has listened to the concerns of Members of Congress and of Members of the Senate. He has been to Alaska. He has gone out in the rural areas. He understands the unique mission of the U.S. Postal Service.

Many people may not realize that it was designated in the Constitution, at the urging of Benjamin Franklin, to do something very different: to have a constitutional mandate to make sure that every household in the United States of America could be visited if, in fact, they had somebody with a post that needed to get to them. That is extraordinary.

In North Carolina, we are a 50-50 State—about 50 percent urban, 50 percent rural. So you can make, maybe, the numbers and logistics work there. But when you go to States like Alaska, Montana—some of these large, expansive, rural States—the U.S. Postal Service is the only way to touch those communities. The postal package carriers can do a little bit of it, but it makes no economic sense for them to go there.

So Louis inherits this very complex and efficient organization and puts together a transformation plan that is only beginning. And he is going to be leaving the Postal Service, but I just wanted my friend and what I consider to be one of the best Postmaster Generals in modern times—I don't want his

work and the impact that he is having to be lost on anyone. I do hope that this administration recognizes the work that has been put into that plan and that we have to carry it through. It is great work.

As for my friend Louis DeJoy, I am going to miss talking with him on postal matters, but what I will miss in that I will gain in having him back in North Carolina. I just wanted to state for the record that I appreciate his dedication and the sacrifice for this job. He certainly had many other opportunities, and I think that the American people owe him a debt of gratitude.

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.

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

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

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL FAULKENDER

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the confirmation of Mr. Michael Faulkender, who is nominated to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

The Deputy Secretary advises and assists the Secretary in the supervision and direction of all of the Department and its activities. Along with Secretary Bessent, the Deputy Secretary will be thoroughly involved in Congress's efforts to craft pro-growth tax policies, which will benefit all Americans and allow U.S. businesses to compete on the global stage. Mr. Faulkender's depth of experience in the public and private sector, in addition to his academic credentials, makes him a highly qualified choice for this position.

Mr. Faulkender spoke strongly at his confirmation hearing about his determination to tackle America's affordability crisis. I look forward to working with him to restore economic prosperity and opportunity and usher in the economic golden age envisioned by the President.

Mr. Faulkender, also, clearly met the standard of the Finance Committee's rigorous nomination process, and I commend the candor and the diligence that he displayed during the extensive meetings that he had with committee members and committee staff.

Qualified nominees for Deputy Treasury Secretary in prior administrations have normally received bipartisan support. I strongly encourage my colleagues today, on both sides of the aisle, to join me in voting to confirm Mr. Faulkender.

I yield the floor.

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.

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

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

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes after 5.

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

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President and colleagues, the Senate will soon take a vote on the nomination of Michael Faulkender to serve as Deputy Treasury Secretary. I urge my colleagues to oppose the nomination.

I am going to take just a few minutes to explain why he got zero support from Democrats in the Finance Committee, and I am going to start with the big picture.

For the last 2 months, Elon Musk and Donald Trump have let loose a pack of cronies who, in my view, are looting the United States of America. They are violating laws, they are blocking accountability, and they are breaking key programs in ways that are going to hurt a lot of Americans.

All the while, there has been a parade of Trump nominees marching through the Senate, and one after the other they pretend that they know nothing about what I just said. They all swear up and down that they follow the law. Under their watch, everything will be on the level.

The reality is, in nearly every case, it is just not true.

Just yesterday, in the Finance Committee, the nominee to head up Social Security told me that he was not involved in any discussions regarding DOGE personnel at Social Security. I asked him directly. That was his response, and his response was a lie.

The committee had received whistleblower testimony from a senior official who worked at Social Security and has recently left. The whistleblower said this nominee had personally intervened to get key DOGE officials installed at Social Security.

This is happening again and again. Trump nominees show up in the Senate, and they always say: I am a choir boy.

But they are directly involved in the ransacking of the country, and Americans are outraged from coast to coast.

Dr. Faulkender is another example. He has been in the building at Treasury since January 21, working in an unofficial capacity. So he knows what is going on there. He knows that DOGE personnel showed up at Treasury with the intent of violating our constitutional authority over Federal funding. Yet, when he was asked about DOGE's activity at Treasury and at the IRS, he, too, had nothing to say—just a bunch of dodging and ducking.

I asked him, as well, directly whether the President has the authority to impound funds, which is a constitutional breach.

His answer was:

I do not know the legal authority of the President when it comes to impoundment.

However, during a television interview last year, he actually said he sup-

ported impoundment and talked about how the President should use it to trample over congressional appropriations and our article I authority.

If confirmed, he will be the No. 2 official at the Department that oversees the IRS, but he had nothing to say about the fact that the administration is intent on violating taxpayer privacy laws and weaponizing the IRS against American taxpayers.

But it wasn't all bobbing and weaving during the hearing. In fact, the most telling moment was when Dr. Faulkender decided to give an awfully revealing answer to a question he probably could have avoided.

Here is what happened.

Everybody understands that the Treasury Department's big job under Donald Trump is giving huge handouts to billionaires and corporations. They plan to pay for it, in part, by slashing Medicaid and kicking tens of millions of Americans off their healthcare.

Senator WARNOCK, our colleague, asked Dr. Faulkender a pretty simple question.

He asked:

Do you think that it's a good idea to take families off of Medicaid?

The funny thing is nobody would have blamed him for saying that the Treasury doesn't have jurisdiction over Medicaid so he wouldn't have to take a position, but that is not what he said.

Dr. Faulkender went out of his way to defend the Republican plan to slash Medicaid and kick tens of millions of Americans off their healthcare. He answered with the same traditional Republican spin—that it was all about “self-sufficiency and getting off of government dependency.”

We are talking about a program that covers nearly 40 million kids, half of all kids with special needs, and two-thirds of all nursing home beds in America. Without Medicaid, rural America would become even more of a healthcare desert.

Dr. Faulkender's nonsense about self-sufficiency is basically what I call trickle-down economics for healthcare. It is a talking point that papers over an agenda that benefits the very affluent at the expense of everybody else.

So, colleagues, this is another case of a nominee dodging nearly all the tough questions and misrepresenting his role in what is going on in the Trump administration. The most forthcoming answer we got during his nomination indicated that he is totally on board with the agenda that is going to put people's lives in danger by kicking tens of millions of Americans off their health insurance so that those at the very top, like Elon Musk, can afford bigger yachts and probably some kind of island.

Dr. Faulkender has been at Treasury since January 21. He is already tied up with DOGE. He has already made himself a part of the harm that the Trump administration, through DOGE, is inflicting on the American people. That is why he got zero support from Democrats in committee.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this nomination when the Senate votes on it in a little bit.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON FAULKENDER NOMINATION

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Faulkender nomination?

Mr. ROUNDS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 149 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Fetterman	Warner
Gallego	Warnock

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). Under the previous order, the