Three of New York's finest were injured yesterday while assigned to prevent looting. A New York State trooper in Buffalo was run over the other night. I wish New York State Trooper Ron Ensminger and the Buffalo police officers injured in these disturbing incidents a speedy and full recovery and thank them for their service and commitment to public safety.

Let me state, once again, unequivocally, that the cause of justice and change sought by protesters in and beyond is undermined by lawlessness and violence. President Trump, however, seems to be incapable of acknowledging the fact that the overwhelming number of peace protesters are peaceful and are simply advocating change. He seems incapable of turning the temperature down to prevent more violence. Quite the opposite. The President wants Americans to falsely believe that all the people who are protesting for a good cause—equality and racial justice—are violent. Nothing could be further from the truth. The overwhelming majority are doing what our Founding Fathers did: protesting to make this Nation a better nation. They should be praised, not vilified.

In a week marred by unacceptable violence and rioting in some places, the President advocates chaos and disorder, including appalling attacks on constitutional rights on his front porch. My goodness. My goodness.

Earlier this week, Americans watched Federal officers, under the direction of the President and the Attorney General, use gas and rubber bullets to disperse a crowd of peaceful protesters in the park. The Lincoln Memorial was blocked off by rows of camouflaged officers.

There are reports right now that troops from Fort Drum and Fort Bragg are camped outside Washington, DC. I would ask the leaders of our military, if these reports are true, what are they doing there, and what are their orders?

The leader, a few minutes ago, mentioned Tiananmen Square. Of course, no one believes that we are China or like China—of course not. We are a democracy, and we are proud of it. Most of us love and praise the right for peaceful protests. But I would remind the Republican leader, when any President, particularly an overreaching one like this, steps over the line, if good people don't raise their voices, that is the way to erode democracy, which China does not have.

Where is Leader MCCONNELL's voice? Instead of spinning these crazy theories, why doesn't he just speak out against what the President did Monday night? Why did he block our resolution, our simple resolution, which called for only three things: one, praise the protesters; two, condemn violence; and, three, condemn the President for what he did?

Our Nation's Capital is being patrolled by Federal officers commanded by President Trump and Attorney General Barr, who refuse to identify who they are and where they come from.

What is President Trump doing to this democracy, to the rule of law, to the primacy of the Constitution? And where are the Republican Senate voices—Leader MCCONNELL and everyone else here—condemning what he did?

Again, democracy will be eroded if we don't stand up for it, if we are afraid to speak out, afraid to tell President Trump he is overreaching and has done bad, bad things when he does them.

I am not the only one who feels this way. We have had statement after statement from Americans of all political stripes. I read George Will, for instance, the other day. He is a conservative, but he cares about America, and he has got some principle.

Then, the most remarkable of all, issued by President Trump's former Secretary of Defense. I want to read some of what former Secretary Mattis said:

> When I joined the military, some 50 years ago, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Never did I dream that troops taking that same oath would be ordered under any circumstance to violate the constitutional rights of their fellow citizens—much less to provide a bizarre photo op for the elected commander-in-chief, with military leadership standing alongside. We know that we are better than the abuse of executive authority that we witnessed in Lafayette Square.

Mattis continues:

> Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people—does not even pretend to try. Instead he tries to divide us. We are witnessing the consequences of three years of this deliberate effort. We are witnessing the consequences of three years without mature leadership. We can unite without him, drawing on the strengths inherent in our civil society. This will not be easy, as the past few days have shown, but we owe it to our fellow citizens; to past generations that bled to defend our promise; and to our children.

That was President Trump's former Secretary of Defense, James Mattis. Like all former members of the military, I know that Secretary Mattis strives to avoid political statements. He has assiduously avoided them so far. But it was a searing indictment of President Trump's failures that importuned Secretary Mattis to speak out so strongly about the President's divisiveness, immaturity, and abuse of power.

Make no mistake about it, General Mattis's comments were a shot across the bow to our military leaders: Don't let the President push you into doing things you know that are wrong, that should not be done, and that could very well violate the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from South Dakota.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, responding to the coronavirus continues to be one of our top priorities here in Congress, I think, as evidenced that yesterday the Senate moved a bill across the floor of the Senate that will be on its way now to the President's desk for his signature, previously passed by the House, that makes some modifications to the PPP program—things that were sought by both sides, improvements, I think, that enable that program to be used with greater flexibility, extending the amount of time in which those dollars that have been received can be used, and allowing some greater flexibility in how they are used.

So I think that is evidence, again, that this body, and both Democrats and Republicans working together, can get things done for the American people that address the very direct needs and challenges they face right now as a result of the coronavirus.

I credit the authors of that—Senators COLLINS and RUBIO on our side, along with their Democratic counterparts—for working together to structure a program that has not only helped many businesses stay in business—millions of businesses stay in business—but has kept tens of millions of people in this country employed at a time when we desperately need to keep those jobs.

So, again, I think it is evidence of this body's and our Senate majority's focus on the coronavirus and things we can do to help assist those who have been most harmed economically by that, as well as addressing the very real health emergency that we need to continue to focus on in terms of finding those therapeutics and vaccines that will enable the American people to have confidence, once again, that they can go out.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, what I want to speak to today is the evidence that we are seeing that the economy around the country is starting to reopen. There is still a lot of work, obviously, that has to be done to defeat the virus and help our economy and the American people recover.

As I mentioned, we have spent the past few weeks focused on monitoring the implementation of the $2.4 trillion in aid that Congress has provided. Our committees are hard at work conducting coronavirus oversight and looking ahead to what else Congress may need to do to combat the virus and to get our economy going again.

We are looking at what more funding Congress may need to provide and what Congress can do that doesn't involve a lot of new spending.

As I said, Congress has already provided $2.5 trillion to fight the coronavirus, and we will absolutely provide more if needed, but we need to remember that every dollar we have provided is borrowed money that our children and grandchildren will have to repay.

Our debt was already very large compared to the size of our economy, even before—before this year's coronavirus-related borrowing, and that is a very concerning reality. The truth is, we can't just keep borrowing and borrowing ever greater sums without suffering real economic consequences.