There have been numerous shootings in this lawless place. About a week ago, a 19-year-old was shot and killed. Last weekend, after yet another shooting, a 16-year-old is dead and a 14-year-old was injured. Some reports suggest these two boys were shot by a self-appointed security squad. These are miscellaneous citizens who roam the area with guns drawn after the occupiers drove the real police out.

We are talking about Seattle, WA, in the United States of America?

The rule of law cannot fade in and out with the fashions of the radical left. No leaders should have sacrificed small businesses to riots and mobs a few weeks back, and no leader should let threats or leftwing jargon persuade them to tolerate occupations for weeks on end.

I understand that, just this morning, Seattle's mayor finally—finally—released a new order that at last empowered police to bring an end to this. So let's hope the rule of law finally—finally—prevails.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on an entirely different matter, the Senate has indeed turned to what will be the 60th annual National Defense Authorization Act. If you look at the world news, it would appear we have done so not a moment too soon.

After months of threats, President Xi and the Chinese Communist Party finally delivered the punch in the mouth to the city of Hong Kong that they are calling a ''national security law.'' As I and others have warned for months, it tramples all over the freedoms and autonomy that have set Hong Kong apart.

Today marks the 23rd anniversary of Hong Kong's handover from the United Kingdom. Normally this anniversary would have occasioned peaceful demonstration. Instead, the new law has brought scores of arrests and boasts from local authorities about how many peaceful demonstrators they have jailed, new harsh penalties for Hongkongers for new and vague offenses, and new authority from Beijing to intervene at will.

It appears to directly—directly—violate China's international promises and effectively end the ''one country, two systems'' policy.

I have discussed at some length the specific consequences China will face for this. I will continue to discuss them in the future.

This same week, we received new confirmation that China's ethnic cleansing campaign against the Uighur people in Xinjiang includes forced abortions, forced birth control, and State-enforced sterilizations on a systematic scale.

All of this is in addition to the international provocation that China has only stepped up during this pandemic—which they helped worsen—against Taiwan, against India, against the Philippines, and so on.

China is not our only adversary occupying the spotlight. Recent days have intensified questions about Russia's negative role in the Middle East.

I have long warned that Russia and other adversaries will exploit any American passivity or retreat from this important region. Whether in Syria or Afghanistan, the question is whether we will stand our ground and exert our influence or allow Iran, Russia, and terrorists to literally push us out of the region.

Sadly, as the Senate turns to the NDAA, the need to continue making swift progress on our national defense strategy is staring us plain in the face. Fortunately, Chairman INHOFE, Ranking Member REED, and our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee have put forward a bill that rises to the challenge.

The bill establishes the Pacific Deterrence Initiative. It lays out a clear vision for making our Pacific joint force more adaptable and our commitments to regional partners more feasible, smarter basing for forward-deployed Americans, more supplies and equipment prepositioned.

It will encourage more streamlined technology so that, from weapons platforms to information security, America and its allies in China's backyard stand ready to counter aggression together.

This NDAA authorizes full funding for the European Deterrence Initiative, doubling down on our NATO alliances as we check the worst impulses of Putin's Russia. The bill will further limit the information Putin gets pertaining to missile defense, bring more focus on tracking Russian support for terrorist proxies and despotic regimes, and renew our commitment to have U.S. forces support, train, and keep watch alongside our partners.

But it isn't enough to check our adversaries today. We also need to outrun them toward the future. So this legislation will also support critical reserves to help us secure a decisive edge in everything from hypersonic weapons to 5G communications.

Threats to our Nation are pulling American servicemembers in all directions. Fortunately, this NDAA has all of their backs.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, while the Senate maintains the serious approach that builds bipartisan successes like the CARES Act and the Great American Outdoors Act, the House Democrats appear addicted to pointless political theater.

Well, our absentee neighbors have finally arrived back in the Capitol, and they have wasted no time resuming old tricks. The Speaker has chosen to spend the House's time this week on a multithousand-page cousin of the Green New Deal masquerading as a highway bill.

You don't have to take my word for it; the chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee said so. He said: ''This is the application of the principles of the Green New Deal.'' And he is right, because here are the four pillars of the Green New Deal: No. 1, spend an insane amount of money; No. 2, check every far-left ideological box; No. 3, propose bad policies; and No. 4, forget about making law from the very beginning so you can legislate in a world of pure fantasy—pure fantasy. Check, check, check, and check.

This so-called infrastructure bill would siphon billions in funding from actual infrastructure to funnel into climate change policy. By putting a huge thumb on the scale for mass transit and electric vehicles, it revises the old Obama-Biden focus on disproportionately helping major metro areas, leaving less for the rest of our country. No wonder it came out of committee in the House on a purely bipartisan vote. No wonder the White House declared it not a serious proposal and made it clear this will never become law.

Naturally, this nonsense is not going anywhere in the Senate. It will just join the list of absurd House proposals that were only drawn up to show fealty to the radical left. Here in the Senate, we will keep at the serious work of our Nation.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 4049, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the following:

A bill (S. 4049) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Inhofe amendment No. 2301, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Portman) amendment No. 2080 (to amendment No. 2301), to require an element in annual reports on cyber science and technology activities on work with academic consortia on high priority cybersecurity research activities in Department of Defense capabilities.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.