their vote submissions unreliable, untrustworthy, and unworthy of acceptance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

□ 1015

ADDRESS THE COVID ISSUE NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, well, here we are again. The CDC just announced that we are going through the most difficult time in U.S. public health history. Why are we here again?

Two weeks ago, I asked that this body not leave, and we stay until we finish up the process of a COVID package. Today, we are back here again, still not having done that, and now Christmas is approaching. We will probably be leaving here next week, hopefully, with a package. But right now, that still is an unknown.

I asked before August the same thing, that we not go back for August break until we identify a package and get it done in a bipartisan way, working toward protecting the American people, protecting families of America, protecting American businesses.

Since then, we now have a projection by one of the top groups that have projected deaths, and they are saying 350,000 deaths just after Christmas.

On December 1, 2,760 people died; on December 2, 3,157. Those projections are identified as increasing because of the amount of people hospitalized and the percentages historically that have been indicated.

I ask Leader MCCONNELL to please reconsider his statements. First, he had indicated that we were going to be able to address this issue just after the election. Politics should not be playing a role in this process.

Now it is, when the new decision comes out by the bipartisan group in the Senate, he says he rejects it, and that maybe after the first of the year we will get to it.

How many Americans have to die before we get serious about this? How many of our fellow citizens have to die, our friends, our neighbors? I don't know if there are any family members who have died, but they are in danger, I can guarantee.

Our hospitals, our doctors are pleading day after day after day, do something about this. Please do something about this. We are overwhelmed. We can find beds for the doctors to be able to treat our citizens. What we cannot do is find doctors and nurses and technicians that are working 7 days a week, 16-hour days, going back to their families, going to bed, and coming back again.

I do not understand it at all. If we are concerned about the economy, let's be concerned about the economy. The more deaths, the worse our economy will suffer.

Homelessness, food instability, increasing mental health issues, education, increasing domestic violence, crime, this is going to continue to get worse unless we address the COVID issue now, not later, but now.

Our leadership has been attempting to address this issue for some time. There is only one stumbling block and that is over in the Senate.

I don't care if you agree with what has been proposed or not. Sit down at the damn table and talk about it. If you have to be there 20 hours a day, sit down and talk about it.

You wouldn't do this in your normal life in business. I have never done that in my normal life in business. When we have something moving forward, we work at it, time and time and time again; and we have to do that now, with COVID. Not later, now.

URGENT NEEDS OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I also want to talk a little bit about Arizona's First Congressional District and our country, on the need to extend the Tribal deadline from December 31 for another year to make sure they have the opportunity to use the funds that were given to them.

There is an assumption that you can, over a 6-month period, put millions of dollars out there and get something done right away. I know that; I am a former project manager. I know to build a building it takes 2 to 3 years to get the planning done and get the work done.

And here, the CARES Act clearly indicated a need for COVID relief for the Tribal Nations, not just because they have not been able to address the issue, but they need to address the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I say one more time, let's get this COVID thing done.

CURFEWS AND COMMON SENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Governor Newsom made a groundbreaking discovery regarding COVID–19 last week. Apparently, it has learned to tell time. Thus, acting under the strictest of scientific standards, he has ordered Californians to run home before 10 p.m., lock their doors, and hide from this insidious virus until daybreak.

Unfortunately, COVID doesn't seem to be following the curfew, so Newsom is now threatening yet another hard lockdown of virtually the entire State throughout the Christmas season. Don we now our plague apparel.

There is just one nagging question the Governor hasn't bothered to answer. If these lockdowns are so successful, why do we need to keep having them?

Now, we are told not to worry. We are cheerfully assured that the jobs that are being destroyed are nonessential. That is their term, nonessential.

Well, I have news for these self-absorbed elitists. If a job is putting food on your table and a roof over your head that job is essential for you and the family that depends upon you.

Last spring, I asked Anthony Fauci if he had taken into account the human cost of these lockdowns, the suicides, the drug and alcohol abuse, the domestic violence, the deferred health screenings and treatments, and the poverty related deaths that his policies were setting into motion. No, we really haven't considered that, he breezily replied.

Don't know, don't care.

But before Fauci and his followers took a wrecking ball to our Nation, poverty had dropped to its lowest rate since 1959. Unemployment was the lowest in 50 years. The income gap was narrowing. Wages showed their strongest growth in 40 years.

How many millions of these jobs have now been wantonly destroyed by autocratic officials who seem oblivious to the damage that they are causing?

Now, according to the CDC's best estimate, those under 50 have a 99.98 percent chance of recovering from COVID, if they get it at all; 99.98 percent. And 40 percent who get it don't even know they have it.

Even for the most vulnerable group, over 70, the survival rate is 94.6 percent.

Now, Sweden did not force its businesses to close. Sweden didn't shut down its schools and abandon its children to the streets. Sweden didn't even adopt a mask mandate.

Sweden did what free societies do; they gave the best advice they could, and they trusted their citizens to use their own good judgment of what measures made sense to them.

The result? Well, as of this morning, Sweden's mortality rate from COVID is 154 deaths per million below that of the United States. If we had Sweden's rate, that would mean over 50,000 fewer American deaths from COVID.

Meanwhile, Sweden has sustained a fraction of the economic damage that our lockdown leftists have inflicted on innocent Americans. Globally, the United Nations warns that 130 million people will starve to death around the world because of the economic damage caused by these measures.

Mr. Speaker, this has to stop. The good news is that more and more Americans are questioning the lunacy of these policies and the hypocrisy of those who impose them. Newsom's curfew order was met with spontaneous defiant demonstrations across the State. Elected sheriffs are increasingly refusing to enforce these autocratic orders. Pastors are reopening their churches. Businesses are reopening, even as their owners are taken away in handcuffs.

All mass hysterias are driven by blind fear, fanned by politicians and