Crime and delinquency have many causes. In some ways, the pandemic likely contributed, but it is impossible to ignore that these terrible trends are coming precisely as so-called ''progressives'' have decided it is time to denounce and defund local law enforcement. Seattle, for example, cut police funding by 20 percent. Minneapolis defunded cops by millions of dollars. The District of Columbia's city council approved $15 million in cuts. These boneheaded decisions are the direct result of an anti-law enforcement fad that has swept through the political left like a wildfire.

Perhaps just as important as these funding cuts is the wave of hostile sentiment that has come with them. Harvard scholars have found that, after high-profile incidents reduce the trust that the public and politicians put in the police, the cities in question receive less active policing and, subsequently, see an increase in crime, including homicides.

In other words, in the wake of terrible incidents like we saw last summer, local leaders should look for ways to build bridges and rebuild trust between the vast majority of brave and honorable officers and their communities.

Oh, no. Instead, from city councils to the Halls of Congress, many on the far left decided to crank the knob all the way up on anti-cop rhetoric all across the board:

> Not only do we need to disinvest from police but we need to completely dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department.
>
> Policing in our country is inherently and intentionally racist . . . No more policing, incarceration, and militarization.

Incredulous people asked whether this nonsense was ever meant seriously.

Helpfully, one Member of Congress clarified: ''Defunding police means defunding police.''

That is a clarifying comment.

A small set of politicians may see selfish opportunities for fame or fundraising if they defame and defund the police, but American families are paying a deadly price.

Defunding the police isn't just a terrible idea for overall public safety; it is also a uniquely awful strategy for racial justice. One study recently confirmed: ''Larger police forces save lives, and the lives saved are disproportionately Black lives.''

So, look. I am not sure exactly how the rantings of far-left Twitter about crime and policing became official Democratic Party dogma in so many places across America. What I do know is that ordinary Americans cannot bear much more of this, and that goes double for the most vulnerable neighborhoods.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, last week, the Senate took up sweeping legislation that touches on big issues that span many committees—from economic policy to national security, to scientific research, and beyond.

Eighty-six Senators voted to proceed to this debate, me included. That wasn't because the legislation was ready to go. It happened because there is broad bipartisan agreement that America needs to upgrade our competitiveness with China. There was broad agreement that this subject deserved a robust debate and amendment process.

Since then we have voted on some amendments, but as of this moment, the Senate's bipartisan work is simply not completed.

The Democratic leader indicated that if the chairman and ranking members worked together, if committees put their heads together, their work would get consideration out here on the floor.

Well, Chairman WYDEN and Ranking Member CRAPO of the Finance Committee have a bipartisan provision that is ready to go. They have already done the hard work. They have reached a solution, but thus far the Democratic leader has refused to include it in his substitute and has not allowed the Senate to vote on it separately.

These are long-term issues we are considering. We need to get this right. And during the time this legislation has been on the floor, we have had entire days come and go without any votes at all on the bill.

In several instances, the Democratic leader chose to pivot away from this legislation and devote floor time to nominations.

So there is no excuse for shutting off debate prematurely before the Senate has been able to have its say.

So we will have to see how today unfolds, what additional amendments the Democratic leader lets the Senate consider, how open a process he permits.

Republicans don't want some big fight over this. We would like to see an outcome—a bipartisan outcome. Even now, discussions are continuing behind the scenes.

But the Democratic leader should not try to force a cloture vote prematurely to stifle the Senate before Members are satisfied that our work is finished.

There is nothing unusual about a minority party denying cloture to secure more amendment votes. I have been here a while. This happens all the time.

Six years ago, even after about two dozen amendment votes, Democrats blocked cloture on a Keystone Pipeline bill until the Senate took a dozen more amendment votes on top of that.

Just last year, even as the economy was tanking around us, the Democratic leader blocked cloture multiple times on the CARES Act—emergency legislation. Why? He wanted more changes.

But I hope it doesn't come to that today. I hope the Democratic leader lets the Senate be the Senate so we can finish this important legislation.

JANUARY 6 COMMISSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now one final matter. As my colleagues know, I have been clear and unflinching in my own statements about January 6. But as I have also repeated, there is no new fact about that day we need the Democrats' extraneous Commission to uncover.

The Department of Justice is deep into a massive criminal investigation. Four hundred and forty-plus people have already been arrested. Hundreds—hundreds—have been charged. Even more arrests are said to be planned. And the Attorney General indicates this investigation will remain a top focus. Multiple Senate committees are conducting their own bipartisan inquiries. And, obviously, the role of the former President has already been litigated exhaustively—exhaustively—in the high-profile impeachment trial we had right here in the Senate several months ago.

I do not believe the additional extraneous Commission that Democratic leaders want would uncover crucial new facts or promote healing. Frankly, I do not believe it is even designed to do that.

That is why the Speaker's first draft began with a laughably rigged and partisan starting point and why the current language would still lock in significant unfairness under the hood.

So I will continue to support the real, serious work of our criminal justice system and our own Senate committees, and I will continue to urge my colleagues to oppose this extraneous layer when the time comes for the Senate to vote.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1260, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

> A bill (S. 1260) to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes.
>
> Pending:
>
> Schumer amendment No. 1502, in the nature of a substitute.
>
> Cantwell amendment No. 1527 (to amendment No. 1502), of a perfecting nature.