

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Target Most Vulnerable; \$600 Enhanced Unemployment Benefit Ends Next Week; Seattle City Council Debates How To Defund Police; Landry Tests Positive But Challenges L.A. Gov On Masks; Human Rights Activist On Criticism Of Pompeo Report; COVID-19 Forces Changes To Party Gatherings; Trump Receives Major Police Group Endorsement

Fox News Network FOX NEWS @ NIGHT 11:00 PM EST

July 16, 2020 Thursday

Copyright 2020 Fox News Network LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Domestic

Length: 6848 words

Byline: Shannon Bream, Kevin Corke, Rick Leventhal, Alex Hogan, William La Jeunesse, Deneen Borelli, Shannon Bream, Peter Doocy

Guests: John Kennedy, Ethan Bearman, Jeff Landry, Ayaan Hersi Ali

Body

LAURA INGRAHAM, FOX NEWS HOST: The Obama administration didn't do that in 2016, even though they were aware of the attack. We did make Russia pay a price in 2018.

That's all the time we have tonight. Shannon Bream, and the FOX NEWS @ NIGHT team, take it all from here. Shannon.

SHANNON BREAM, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: All right. Laura, thank you so much. We begin tonight with a Fox News alert.

Amid another surge in coronavirus case numbers, Americans are once again being warned that their personal liberties could soon be under lockdown again. Washington governor, Democrat, Jay Inslee, tonight not ruling out another round of stay-at-home orders.

And New York governor, Andrew Cuomo, threatening business owners if they don't comply with his directives. As many say, they can't survive another lockdown here in Washington. Democrats are pushing for trillions more in new relief as Republicans say, any more federal funding is going to have to be narrowly tailored and not make it more lucrative for people to stay home rather than returning to work.

GOP senator, John Kennedy, joins us in minutes with his take on that. And a piece in the New York Times that's got him pretty fired up tonight.

Hello and welcome to FOX NEWS @ NIGHT, I'm Shannon Bream in Washington. Senior correspondent Rick Leventhal kick us off with a look at how the current COVID restrictions are playing out across America. Good evening, Rick.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

RICK LEVENTHAL, FOX NEWS SENIOR CORRESPONDENT: Good evening, Shannon. State and local governments are getting tougher in the fight against coronavirus rule breakers, threatening bigger fines, arrest, and the shutdown of non-compliant businesses. But the stories of people rebelling keep popping up.

In Louisiana a 64-year-old man refused to put a mask on inside a Walmart, coffer call and after telling them, you can't make me wear effing mask, he allegedly backed his car into a police officer twice and faces multiple charges including aggravated assault.

And in St. Petersburg, Florida, a man was busted after allegedly punching another passenger on a city bus in the face after a mass wearing dispute.

In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced a new crackdown on city restaurants failing to comply with public health orders. He says bars can no longer serve drinks without food, and if they do, have three strikes and your closed rule will be enforced.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GOV. ANDREW CUOMO (D-NY): It's wrong, it's dangerous, it's selfish, it's unacceptable, it's also illegal. Any establishment that receives three violations will be closed for business.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

LEVENTHAL: In Danbury, Connecticut, five local cafe owners were charged with breaking public health emergency orders for multiple alleged violations including employees not wearing masks and not putting tables far enough apart.

And in Brooks County, Texas, authorities have issued a warning to anyone testing positive for the virus, isolate yourself or get arrested. Using a penal code citing conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury.

Finally here in California, a lawsuit has been filed by three churches against the state after Governor Gavin Newsom ordered places of worship, to discontinue singing, and limit attendance while doing nothing to limit massive protests which could include singing, and much more.

The lawsuit states, "Singing and praying aloud as a body of Christ is an integral part of worship for believers and plaintiffs."

The governor hasn't commented on the lawsuit, but when asked why he didn't restrict mass protests after the church ban, he said quote, we have a constitution and we have a right to free speech. But apparently, not a right to sing in church, Shannon.

BREAM: All right. A lot of folks going to keep fighting that one. Rick, thank you.

LEVENTHAL: Sure.

BREAM: Tonight, police releasing video of protesters in Columbus, Ohio, they say attacked a disabled man's car. The 58-year-old with cerebral palsy was driving home when he encountered a crowd of protesters. This is just one example of a disturbing trend of attacks, some even targeting pregnant women, new mothers, and the elderly.

Correspondent Alex Hogan is taking a closer look for us tonight. Good evening, Alex.

ALEX HOGAN, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Good evening, Shannon. Disturbing attacks, among them today an elderly New Jersey man beaten in a cemetery and a pregnant Philadelphia woman shot in the head.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

HOGAN: Uptick in crime in some of the country's largest cities and recent violence targeting some of the more vulnerable. Like in the Bronx, a man threw a 64-year-old to the ground trying to take his necklace and this man putting a 64-year-old woman in a chokehold to steal her purse.

Violence between partners claiming to. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, calls for help increased by nine percent during the pandemic. Among recent attacks crimes against pregnant women across the nation. One man in the Bronx attacking his ex-girlfriend, choking, and stabbing her in front of their child.

In Minneapolis earlier this month, police responded to two separate shootings of pregnant women, the Minnesota Department of Justice forming a new Twin Cities violent crime Task Force last week to help reduce recent violence announcing in part. "The goal of this task force is not to flood our communities with law enforcement, but rather to leverage law enforcement's collective resources.

In New York yesterday, Mayor Bill de Blasio signing new police reform bills as shootings continue to spike in the city and tensions increase between police and the public.

TERENCE MONAHAN, NYPD CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT: There is a lot of animosity towards the police. And we're feeling it, not just in the protest when these advocates take over it, but on the streets, on the street corners.

HOGAN: Four NYPD officers are recovering after yesterday's clashes with protesters on the Brooklyn Bridge and some suspects have been arrested. De Blasio calling the attacks unacceptable.

MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO (D-NY), NEW YORK CITY: I've said it many times, there's no situation in which is acceptable to attack a police officer, period.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HOGAN: Chief Monahan says that morale in the NYPD is as low as it's been, and still within just the last day, police responded to seven more shootings and taking care of 12 shooting victims. Shannon?

BREAM: All right. Alex, the trouble is real and continues to mount Thank you.

Amid the pandemic and domestic -- gripping America, a New York Times columnist says there is hope and seems to be suggesting that will come in the form of kicking President Trump out of the White House quote, "Yes, our nation is a mess. But overlapping catastrophes have also created conditions that may finally let us extricate ourselves from the mire."

Well, how does that sit with GOP senator, John Kennedy? He joins us now. So I will ask him. Welcome, Senator. Good to have you.

SEN. JOHN KENNEDY (R-LA): Good to have you, Shannon. And I read the opinion piece. It's supposedly about hope. I mean, who can be against hope? It's like -- it's like hating Golden Retrievers. But then you read the article, and it's not about hope.

Here's what the article says, my words, not the author's. America is a depraved country. Most Americans, he says, in my opinion, particularly white Americans, are racist and misogynistic and ignorant. They're morons. And then the author goes on to say, my words, not his, that the American people are so moronic that they can't fix their country.

And so the answer is to turn America over to the managerial elites. And by that, I mean the cultured cosmopolitan, bacon-wrapped shrimp and tuna tartare crowd who think they're smarter and more virtuous than the American people. And the author seems to think that those -- that manager on elite, is comprised of the what I call the Ritz-Carlton Democrats, though, I will tell you, I know some big government Republicans who act the same way.

In my opinion, if you believe this article, you were probably that kid in grade school who always ate the paste.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

BREAM: Hmm. Well, I mean, he does put this in the context of, hey, listen, we're awake now when it comes to racial disparities and inequality and things that need to be fixed, and maybe all of this unrest is a good thing leading us toward fixing those. And he doesn't necessarily say that former Vice President Joe Biden is the answer to all of those things, which seems to be drawing a map that we could infer is sending us in that direction.

Now, I want to ask you about this. You mentioned big government, Republicans too, because you guys are now talking about potentially another round of coronavirus relief. Here is what House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had to say about some Republicans now being worried about the price tag. Here's what she says.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REP. NANCY PELOSI (D-CA): When they're giving away all this big money and they worry that \$600 for families who need it so desperately, it just -- it just makes you wonder. Who are they here for?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: Well, an opinion piece in The Hill puts it this way, "Democrats know their odds of taking the White House in the Senate hinge on the state of the economy. If this downturn is the new normal and extension of unemployment benefits is a stepping stone on the pathway toward universal basic income."

So another package probably coming. There is talk on both sides of the aisle about how to get this done with a price tag is going to be. But what do you make of the fact that Republicans are going to be painted as being very stingy at a time when people across the country need your help?

KENNEDY: Well, that's the way many members of the mainstream media always paint us. So why should this time be any different? We are going to start working on another coronavirus bill. I don't know whether it will pass. I don't know what will be in it. The only thing I'm certain of, at this juncture, is that it will not be Speaker Pelosi's bill. She introduced what she calls the Heroes Act. I've read it, it reads more like the Communist Manifesto. And I think it'll probably be dead on arrival on the Senate.

BREAM: All right. Well, part of what the discussion is about, the Senate piece and the House piece is funding for schools as they try to work towards getting reopen. And as that conversation continues, I keep saying on the show all my parent friends are like, get the kids back in school. I think we can probably do this safely. They're looking at what the CDC is saying, what Dr. Fauci is saying, it's not going to work everywhere, but some places it could.

But we have this polling from Quinnipiac, do you think it will be safe or unsafe to send students back to elementary, middle, and high school in the fall? Thirty-one percent saying, yes, it can be safe. Sixty-two percent believe it would be unsafe.

So the President is making this argument. But according to that poll, a lot of Americans are not comfortable with this conversation of sending kids back. What do you make of it?

KENNEDY: Here's what I think about the reopening of the schools. First, parents and kids, kids especially, come first, and parents are responsible for their children. They should be, they are. If you're a parent, and you don't want to send your child back to school, don't. As a corollary, I would say if you're a teacher and you don't want to go back to school, don't. That's between you and your school board.

Number three, when you weigh the costs and the benefits, in my opinion, keeping these kids out of school will harm them much more than the coronavirus ever can. For many of our children, schools are the only stable institution in their lives. I don't know why this is. I think it's a blessing, though, that children do not seem to be as susceptible to the coronavirus. And when they get it, that they don't get as sick.

I think we've had 15 children under the age of -- 50 -- or 30 children rather under the age of 15, who have dad, that's 30 too many. But clearly, the -- our children are among the safest of our -- of our population.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

BREAM: Well, this same polling shows that when it comes to the president in handling COVID, and this idea of reopening schools, just about the same numbers show about, you know, 30, 60, that they don't think the President is doing a good job with this. He's running into all kinds of polling numbers that show he hasn't, by estimation, in these polls, hasn't handled COVID Well. That's the inverse of what we saw when he was doing the daily briefings and people actually had confidence what he was doing.

Listen, we're back in another round of spikes. The death toll is starting to come up again. What do you make of the way the administration's handle things thus far?

KENNEDY: Well, the American people are scared. It's not exactly a newflash that America is going through a rough patch here. Government shut down our economy, so there's a lot of economic insecurity. We're going to have thousands of businesses go broke as a result of the shutdown orders by the governors. People are scared about their health. They're scared of this coronavirus and they should be.

We have to respect it. And on top of this, you have a lot of people who are -- who are running around America saying all Americans, especially white Americans are racist. And we have to tear down every statute that ever existed, including statutes of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses Grant and Frederick Douglass.

And it's a very unsettled time in America. And the captain of the ship always gets blamed. The captain of the ship fairly or unfairly is held responsible. We'll get through this. Some of my colleagues think we'll get through it because of government. I think government made America great. I don't believe that. I think America was made great by ordinary people doing extraordinary things. And it's ordinary people doing extraordinary things, middle class Americans who get us through this.

But we can't -- we can't -- we can't stop now. I mean, I don't know who said it. But somebody -- a smart person once said, when you're going through hell, keep going, and that's what we've got to do. We're going through hell, and we got to just keep going.

BREAM: Yes. America has done that before. At times when people thought we were -

KENNEDY: We've been there.

BREAM: -- should be on repair. So, yes, we have been. And listen, I say a prayer for you, for all of our leaders, for our president, everyone on both sides of the aisle to find ways to get us there. But you're right, the American people will be the ones to get us there.

Senator, thank you for coming.

KENNEDY: No question. No question. Thank you, Shannon.

BREAM: So what about those talks over the next coronavirus relief bill? Well, White House correspondent, Kevin Corke, takes us inside what's happening on Capitol Hill tonight. Good evening, Kevin.

KEVIN CORKE, FOX NEWS WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Evening, Shannon. The White House, believe it or not, is insisting that Congress include a payroll tax cut as part of that next coronavirus stimulus package. Potentially complicating, as you can well imagine, talks with lawmakers. All this is happening, by the way, with time running out on existing unemployment benefits.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

CORKE: It's been a lifeline for millions, \$600 weekly unemployment benefits signed into law through the Federal Cares Act, but it expires July 31st, leaving lawmakers on Capitol Hill precious little time to come up with a compromise to help struggling Americans.

PELOSI: The clock is ticking. We need to have the direct payments to people.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

CORKE: Vital payments for the over 17 million Americans who are already receiving unemployment benefits.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We have been living on our credit cards. We only have one unemployment check to live on for months, and we had to eat.

CORKE: But some critics argue paying workers more to stay home, instead of returning to work, is a surefire way to cause thousands of small businesses to go under.

SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL (R-KY): It actually made it more attractive for many people to stay home, rather than go back to work.

I'm predicting that we will have one more rescue package, which we'll begin to debate and discuss next week.

CORKE: A debate that will include the President's push for a payroll tax holiday in the next major coronavirus bill, a crucial piece of legislation for a president whose campaign is ignoring polls that suggest their candidate is trailing former Vice President Joe Biden.

"The same media polls that had the world convinced that Hillary Clinton would be elected in 2016 are trying the same trick again in 2020," said newly-minted campaign manager, Bill Stepien, "It won't work."

That as the President's niece, Mary Trump, tonight, made an explosive allegation against her uncle, the subject of a family tell-all book, "Too much and Never Enough."

RACHEL MADDOW, MSNBC HOST: Have you heard the President use the N word?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

MADDOW: And anti-Semitic slurs, specifically?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

CORKE: Now, in response to the comments that you just heard, the White House told the show, this is a book of falsehoods, plain and simple. The President doesn't use those words. By the way, that is a book, Shannon, that continues to sell extremely well over 900,000 units moved in just its first two days on the marketplace, Shannon?

BREAM: All right. Flying off the shelves. Kevin, thank you.

CORKE: You bet.

BREAM: So police layoffs based on race. Well, some in Seattle are floating that idea, but is it even legal? Our panel on a lightning round of hot topics, next.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JAKHARY JACKSON, PORTLAND, OREGON POLICE OFFICER: You have more minorities on the police side and you have in a violent crowd, and you have white people screaming at black officers, "You have the biggest nose I've ever seen."

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: The situation in Portland increasingly heated with attacks on local police and federal authorities, they're protecting federal buildings, say, they've been attacked including one man who's been arrested for coming after them with a hammer.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta....

Now on the other side, Oregon Democratic Senator, Jeff Merkley, tweeting tonight, "Federal forces shot an unarmed protester in the face. These shadowy forces had been escalating not preventing violence. If DHS Wolf, meaning the Secretary, is coming here to inflame the situation, so real Donald Trump can look like a tough guy, he should turn around and leave our city now.

The senator, apparently, referring to the use of non-lethal impact munitions, some media reporting the use of rubber bullets, in this case, which can clearly still cause serious injuries. Well, national correspondent William La Jeunesse is separating fact from fiction for us tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

WILLIAM LA JEUNESSE, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Federal agents in Portland face not just protesters, but the city's mayor.

TED WHEELER, MAYOR OF PORTLAND: What I have a problem with is them leaving the facilities, going out onto the streets of this community and then escalating an already tense situation like.

LA JEUNESSE: Mayor Ted Wheeler's comments come after federal agents use tear gas Wednesday to break up a mob of protesters at the federal courthouse.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We're in the street when they start gassing us and then they put a push to us from way over there in the street all the way over here.

LA JEUNESSE: Homeland Security claims protesters set fires, spray graffiti and assaulted federal police with cans, rocks, fireworks, lasers, and slingshots. Wednesday, the U.S. attorney charged this man with assaulting a U.S. marshal with a hammer. Wheeler insist the protesters are largely peaceful and wants federal police to leave Portland altogether.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary, Chad Wolf, says that's not going to happen, saying, "A federal courthouse is a symbol of justice. To attack it is to attack America. Instead of addressing violent criminals in their communities, local and state leaders are instead focusing on placing blame on law enforcement."

This isn't the first time Wheeler clashed with the Feds. In 2018, protesters created occupy ICA, and for weeks, harassed federal agents as they entered the building. Wheeler cheered them on.

WHEELER: To all demonstrators, I urge you to keep up this effort.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

LA JEUNESSE: The federal building in Portland has long been a target for the ANTIFA, and now Black Lives Matter, who tried to set up a Seattle style autonomous zone outside the building. Unlike the Feds, local police cannot use crowd control munitions on demonstrations that have now lasted 48 straight nights. Shannon?

BREAM: William, thank you very much.

So the unrest in Portland is just one example of a litany of violent protests we've seen over the last several weeks, resulting in destruction of property and clashes with police. It's also ramped up the debate over reform. So let's start there with Left Coast News, host, Ethan Bearman and Fox News contributor, Deneen Borelli, for a lightning round, try to hit a lot tonight with you two. Thanks for being with us.

DEENEEN BORELLI, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Hey, Shannon.

ETHAN BEARMAN, HOST, LEFT COAST NEWS: Hey, Shannon. Good to be here.

BREAM: Okay, Seattle is talking about laying people off. There have been suggestions laying off police officers by race. Carmen Best, who is the police chief there who herself happens to be African-American female says this, "We

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta....

cannot do layoffs based on race. It is illegal to make layoffs based on race. I'm not sure where she's getting her legal advice from, but the persons who are advising us are making sure we understand it's illegal to do that."

Get you to both weigh in, Doreen, start with you - Deneen, let's start with you.

BORELLI: Well, look she's right. It's race base firing, Shannon, and look at the fact that people are completely forgetting about content of character, and the fact that anytime in the real world when you are a job holder, you're an employee, your performances checked, you're hired based on your skills and what your ability is to do the job according to the job description. It has nothing to do about your race. That's in the real world.

But what's going on across the country, unfortunately, especially when it comes to police officers, and they want to defund and disband the police, it's just a horrible thing that's going on. And they are pitting law enforcement against Americans. And this is why a police officers are being attacked. It's horrible.

BREAM: All right. Ethan, you're a lawyer. I used to be an employment lawyer. I don't think anyone's going to say it's legal to fire people based on their race or lay them off.

BEARMAN: It's clearly not. I mean, title seven will prohibit that, so it's not legal to do that. However, the point here is, is that the community wants to see a reflection of themselves in the police force, and that interaction with the community is very important.

It's also important to note that 87 percent of black people, 61 percent of white people, all believe that in the United States believe that the criminal justice is treats black people unfairly. So ignoring what is going on, that there is an injustice that is happening in this country, it does need to be addressed. I mean, you just can't lay people off based on their race. We still need to have these conversations to discuss how we reform this.

BREAM: Right. Yes, I think people would admit, across the board, those conversations need to happen, but not firing people based on race. I don't know how far they'll get with that in Seattle.

All right. Let's talk about this next one. California's Faculty Association has said, "Based on racism, COVID, attacks, all kinds of things, they brought out white supremacy, anti-black racism, and systemic racism back into the public gaze. They're recommending a number of things, including this, "defund and remove armed militarized police from campuses." There's a long list. These are just a couple, but also provide free tuition for black native and indigenous students.

You're on the West Coast there, Ethan. We'll start with you on this one, and then to Deneen.

BEARMAN: Well, a little bit like the previous topic, I don't think they can do that either because California's proposition 209, from 1996 prohibits affirmative action. We do have Prop 16 on the ballot this year that to overturn that, so they can't do it, again, formative actions against the rules here in California.

However, this is that same concept. Again, we have systemic racism that has built up over generations that needs to be addressed. And to just pretend like it isn't there that one percent has been able to build on the backs of enslaved people that wealth over hundreds of years, and it accumulates.

So while you today, maybe didn't directly participate in that. That accumulation happen, and we should be addressing it.

BREAM: OK. Deneen, free tuition and getting police officers off of campuses.

BORELLI: Yes. Preferential treatment, it's wrong on all levels to -- it sounds like they're a very own version of reparations is what they're doing here. But what about the white students, the Chinese students and the other students, it's a special treatment and it's wrong. And then they want to get rid of the campus police. My goodness. We need law enforcement. We need to make sure that law and order is being upheld on all aspects of our country.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

And especially on college campuses. Students need to know that they're safe. Parents want to know that their child is safe, the teachers, the administrators, that is what they are there to do, to provide safety.

BREAM: All right. Deneen and Ethan, thank you both for weighing in. Always good to see you.

BEARMAN: Thanks, Shannon.

BORELLI: Thanks, Shannon.

BREAM: All right. Detroit police arresting at least 11 people for trying to prevent summer school bus drivers from running their routes. This was the fourth day of demonstrations against in-person summer classes at Detroit Public Schools.

A group of teachers, students, and parents has filed a civil lawsuit against the district, seeking an emergency injunction to stop in-person classes immediately.

All right. Despite being in quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19, Louisiana's Attorney General, Jeff Landry, says his governor's decision to mandate masks is unconstitutional and will not stand up to legal muster. The Attorney General is live next.

BREAM: Breaking tonight, the Governor of Georgia suing the Mayor and City Council Members in Atlanta to block the city's enforcement of a mask mandate and a roll back to phase one for businesses and gatherings amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. In the lawsuit, Governor Brian Kemp says this in part: "I refuse to sit back and watch as disastrous policies threaten the lives and livelihoods of our citizens. We will fight to stop these reckless actions and put people over pandemic politics."

Well, for some unique perspective on all of this, we bring in Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry. He's tested COVID-19 positive he's currently quarantined at home, and also tonight, he's pushing back on his Governor's mask mandate there in Louisiana. Attorney General, welcome back. Good to have you.

JEFF LANDRY, LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL: Thank you for having me.

BREAM: OK, so your governor says it is warranted. He's well within his legal rights and he also adds this. He says, "I wish that Jeff Landry would listen to his own words from March 18 when he stood with me and said extraordinary measures were necessary to protect the people of our state during this COVID-19 crisis. I'm not sure what's changed since then, aside from the loss of 3,300 additional lives, and more than 80,000 additional Louisianans becoming infected." So, you say the mask orders unconstitutional how so?

LANDRY: Well, because look at the beginning of March, we had a novel virus that we knew very little about. We didn't know the infection rate. We didn't know the mortality rate. We didn't know how to treat it. We were told in March that two to three million people were going to die by the experts, right? That's a scary proposition. We had no idea what we were dealing with. Today, much different.

Thankfully, those experts were wrong. Today, we have a better grip on infection rate, the transmission rate, the mortality rate. Our medical professionals are doing a wonderful job in treating the virus. We know that length of hospital stays has shorten, mortality has gone down. And so, again, those things require that government action change. You can't be more intrusive when the statistics are going that are getting better, not worse.

BREAM: OK, let me play something from the Director of the CDC, Dr. Robert Redfield, and they get some reaction from you.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DR. ROBERT REDFIELD, DIRECTOR, CDC: I think if we could get everybody to wear a mask right now, I really do think over the next 4, 6, 8 weeks, we could bring this epidemic under control.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: OK, so do you disagree with that statement, or you do disagree with the legal mandating of wearing masks?

LANDRY: Exactly. I don't disagree with his statement. And I'm not -- and in fact, when we issued opinion, we set it both at the beginning and that we certainly encourage people to wear masks. That is something that we certainly shouldn't be encouraging people to do. The problem is the Constitution. I know that some people believe that the Constitution becomes best, or it gets in their way when they just want to do something.

But unfortunately, here in Louisiana, the Constitution means something. And the Governor's order as it is written today, we believe to be unconstitutional, unconstitutional. We wrote a very lengthy opinion, Shannon, on the order is extremely broad, it's arbitrary. It basically commandeers people to do the enforcement for the government. It pits neighbor against neighbor, citizen against citizen. It is just it, it's a bad order.

BREAM: It will -- will it go to court? Do you think there'll be a lawsuit quickly in Louisiana over the Governor's order?

LANDRY: I don't know. You know, we laid out, we laid out a lot of great reasons why it is unconstitutional. We certainly would encourage the governor to recalibrate. There are a lot of things that we could do in a more of a proactive, inclusive way to get people to understand the dangers that are poised out there for this virus. But again, you know, there really, there really wasn't a whole lot of communication between us.

And now, look, I think you got to remember something, you know, one thing to Governor's orders has a criminal violation to it. OK, think about this. If there's a criminal penalty on it, that means that any enforcement brings Fourth and Fifth Amendment Rights and protections as well. Again, that's problematic. I mean, we, we basically commandeer businesses to do the job of the government. Again, not something that we shouldn't be seeing inside of awful orders.

BREAM: All right, we're going to leave it there. But Mr. Attorney General, we hope that you have a swift recovery and continue to feel asymptomatic, and we'll watch as this plays out legally. Thanks for your time.

LANDRY: Thank you so much.

BREAM: All right. Breaking tonight, the name change was just the beginning. 15 female former employees of the Washington Redskins tell the Washington Post, they were sexually harassed and verbally abused while working for the organization. One of those 15 women, is Emily Applegate.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

EMILY APPLGATE, FORMER REDSKINS EMPLOYEE: If you've made any kind of complaint, it wasn't going to go anywhere. I mean, I'm pretty sure that if you made a complaint, the only thing that was going to happen was that you were going to get fired because you're talking about the most powerful people in the building, aside from the owners.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: Redskins owner Daniel Snyder has retained a D.C. law firm to review the team's culture, policies, and allegations of workplace misconduct. Well, Representative Ilhan Omar accused of being anti American insists the right has taken her comments out of context. We'll dig into that debate with our next guests coming up.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MIKE POMPEO, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE: I've always been thinking about how it is that we protect those freedoms that are essential to our American that's, that's unique and exceptional nation. So, something I've been thinking about for a while when I became the Secretary of State, I saw that our department was not thinking about

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

this in a way that was consistent and I wanted to regroup ourselves in these important understandings about those unalienable rights.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: Well, the left is slamming a new global human rights initiative by the Trump administration. The Human Rights Campaign saying tonight, no one should take it seriously. Well, let's talk about that and what's in the report with Human Rights Activist, Ayaan Hirsi Ali. Great to have you with us tonight.

AYAAN HERSI ALI, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST: Shannon, thank you very much for having me on.

BREAM: OK, want to read you a little bit more of what the Human Rights Campaign had to say. It says, as what's clear from the start, "Secretary Pompeo's commission on unalienable rights was designed to challenge the international consensus with a narrow view of human rights, that among other things, would leave LGBTQ people even more vulnerable to violence and discrimination." What to do you -- what's your reaction to what's in this report tonight?

ALI: I just finished reading the report and I am so impressed. I want, I mean, just for the public out there to know Secretary Pompeo and I, we've, we've become friends and we've talked in private and I know how Mike Pompeo is incredibly serious about human rights. And I think the first question that the report addresses is we need clarity. There is a crisis and there is a confusion about what exactly it is that human rights mean, and what's the role of the United States of America in that effort.

What I love about the courts is it combines this. On the one hand, if I were to summarize it, I would use two words. One is pride, pride in what the United States of America has achieved in the 244 years that it existed. And then the second word I would use is "humility." And this is what the reports help us we have; we have, we have a long way to go. Let's articulate what we've achieved, let also face in 2020, that we need we need to --

BREAM: That the, that the U.S. in your estimation in this report has done amazing things in the world and trying to recognize freedoms here at home and abroad and to fight for those, but that we still have work to do. And that is a good place to be because we know there is work to do. I want to ask you, you have a very specific and very interesting story, life story. I know that you feel like the U.S. has given you a chance to escape some very difficult conditions and to have freedom here, and that you're a personal beneficiary of that. There's been a lot of attention this week about somebody else here in the U.S. who has as well, which is Congresswoman Ilhan Omar. Here's what she said on July 7th.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REP. ILHAN OMAR (D-MN): So, we cannot stop at criminal justice system. We must begin the work of dismantling the whole system of oppression wherever we find it.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: Now, she was talking about the criminal justice system, the political system, she also says that the characterization of what she said has been inaccurate. It's been false that she ended up getting hate speech and threats of deportation or calls for deportation and death threats. She wrote a piece in The Washington Post, she said this: "Such continued distortions are a sign of the President's weakness among voters. We know his team wouldn't be relying so heavily on racist distortions, if it were confident in its policies' popularity." What do you make of this conversation about what she had to say?

ALI: I think it reflects what's going on in the United States of America and outside of the United States of America. And again, this is why I'm really happy with this report, because it clears so much confusion. We know our history, and we are reminded of our history in this report. We are the one nation that broke loose from colonialism, that abolished slave trade, that established the civil rights. We have a long way to go.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

Now, the question in 2020 that is, I would say people like Ilhan Omar and others that we face is we see the inequality we see it today, what are we going to do about it? And are we going to do it within our history, our tradition, our heritage and our system? Or are we going to destroy all of that and dismantle it and establish something new and different?

I belong to the school of thought, along with those who wrote this report, and along with Secretary Pompeo that we have the principles, we have the moral superiority, we just need to aspire and to live, too, at that and against this whole rhetoric of dismantling things. And I think the United States of America has done a great deal of good. You know, we're the most heterogeneous society in the world, meaning the most diverse.

You have all sorts of ethnic groups, religions, non-religions, whatever. And we have our problems. I've said that before, but I will tell you the one set of principles that gives us the opportunity to keep aspiring to what perfection is the framework that we have today that that was established and founded in the declaration and in the Constitution. No need to dismantle that.

BREAM: Well, and that framework also gave us a way to make changes to our constitution and in our society, should we find that it's necessary and we have many times and that work will continue. Ayaan Hirsi Ali, we know you have raised a spotlight on a grievous situation around the globe. We thank you for spending some time with us tonight.

ALI: Thank you, Shannon, thank you so much for having us, and let's continue to fight to preserve our principles, not dismantle them.

BREAM: Well, everything you need to know about the upcoming conventions, is there going to be a party or not? Peter Doocy has the answer, next.

BREAM: This year's GOP convention is going to look very different than the last time around. New security measures and smaller crowds, and that's not all. Here's Correspondent Peter Doocy.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PETER DOOCY, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: A full basketball arena roared for Donald Trump's acceptance speech four years ago.

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: USA, USA!

DOOCY: But less than half that many people will see his acceptance speech in person this time, six or 7,000 people will be allowed to see Trump on the conventions fourth night that's delegates alternate delegates and their guests. The first three nights delegates only, 2,500 people. RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel wrote to members adjustments must be made to comply with state and local health guidelines. So, a lot has changed in three months.

TRUMP: We think by the end of August, we'll be in good shape. We have no (INAUDIBLE), you know, it's going to be in North Carolina, as you know, Charlotte.

DOOCY: Now, it's in Florida where Joe Biden just started running TV ads.

JOE BIDEN (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Wear mask. Wash your hands.

DOOCY: And his convention in Milwaukee will be even more pared down than Trump's.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Will you be accepting your nomination to an empty room and on YouTube or something?

BIDEN: You can't say for sure, but it's probable that will be the case.

DOOCY: Democrats are asking their delegates not to come at all, which is apparently not the 77-year-old's preference.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Is Being Interviewed About the COVID Relief and Domestic Violence; Governors Warn Of Second Round Of Shutdowns; Distributing Attacks Ta...

REP. CEDRIC RICHMOND (D-LA): He likes to be out there where he can touch people and show people his hearts.

DOOCY: Huge parties for convention-goers including one at Miller Park, home to Major League Baseball's Brewers, are canceled. And the Milwaukee journal, Sentinel, points out no celebrity sightings this year either. Kanye West wouldn't go anyway.

Officials in Oklahoma tell Fox News, "Kanye West is now qualified as an Independent candidate for President of the United States in Oklahoma and will appear on the general election ballot." The National Association of police organizations just made their endorsement of Trump not a candidate. They backed in 0-8-12, Biden.

RICHMOND: When he came out for police reform, I think he knew that this was a risk.

DOOCY: Hillary Clinton notoriously ignored Wisconsin when it mattered most, and lost. And Democrats tried hard to make this time different.

TOM PEREZ, DNC CHAIR: Don't forget folks. 490 days. And this place will be hopping.

DOOCY: That was 493 days ago, but nothing is hopping there because of COVID-19. Republicans are in the same boat ahead of their convention, and the very limited number of tickets offered to RNC delegates could make that the first week night primetime Trump rally in years where it doesn't talk about the crowd size. Shannon.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

BREAM: Thanks, Peter. Good night from Washington, I'm Shannon Bream.

Load-Date: July 17, 2020