

Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack has started limply echoing racists by saying 'all lives matter'

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The Advertiser (Australia)

January 14, 2021 Thursday

Advertiser Edition

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**Section:** OPED; Pg. 21

**Length:** 683 words

**Byline:** Tory Shepherd

### Body

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DONALD Trump is fanning the flames of far-right extremists, while the Morrison Government is refusing to hold a hose to those flames as they rise in Australia.

None of our senior politicians have gone as far as the US President, who seems to have incited an insurrection. But several of them are fluffing for him and his neo-Nazi followers.

Liberal backbencher Craig Kelly played down the riots and linked them to a much-debunked claim that anti-fascists were involved (as opposed to fascists. Nice try).

National Party backbench colleague George Christensen has echoed fake claims about fraud in the US election and also tried to pin the January 6 Capitol Building invasion on left-wing groups.

And now acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack has started limply echoing racists by saying "all lives matter". He's practising whataboutery, pretending the Black Lives Matter movements were somehow equivalent to the armed invasion of the Capitol.

As with "It's OK to be white", "All lives matter" is a racist slogan - a too-clever-by-half way of undermining minorities protesting against racism. A whistle so loud, it's more AFL umpire than dog.

"It's OK to be white", which One Nation senator Pauline Hanson famously moved as a parliamentary motion, came out of white supremacist and neo-Nazi chatrooms.

And since 2016, people have been explaining that saying "All lives matter" is a way to dismiss the persecution of people of colour. **BLM** protests - most of which were peaceful, with any violence often instigated by the police or armed thugs - were against **police brutality**. The riot in Washington was a bunch of neo-Nazis and fascists trying to stop democracy. Not quite the same thing.

The FBI knew it was coming. There are reports that some pro-Trump politicians aided and abetted the rioters.

This organised mob took pipe bombs, guns and a noose. They had assault rifles and handguns. One guy had 11 jars of homemade napalm. Another boasted of having armour-piercing ammunition.

Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack has started limply echoing racists by saying 'all lives matter'

They discussed for weeks what weapons they were going to take. They threatened to kill politicians, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

It has been reported most of them were Republican Party members, the Proud Boys, far-right militants, fascist and conspiracy groups, and believers in the QAnon conspiracy theory. Some wore Nazi slogans.

Trump was chumming the water for these guys. For weeks he was telling his supporters to converge on Washington. They did. On the day, as the crowd grew, he told them to walk to the Capitol. And they did. He even gave them street directions.

While Trump keeps chumming, our leaders remain chums. All the big players - Merkel, Johnson, Trudeau - condemned his words and the actions that followed. Not Scott Morrison. He just said the events were "distressing", "concerning".

Reports are emerging that those who instigated the storming of the Capitol are preparing for a bigger, more violent insurrection in the lead-up to Joe Biden's inauguration next week. The FBI is warning that there could be armed protests in every state.

These militants have taken strength and reassurance from Republicans who egg them on - most publicly, Trump.

But Mr McCormack - standing in for Mr Morrison, who is on leave - won't condemn Trump, and instead doubled down this week on equating the Capitol insurrection with Black Lives Matter.

He attacked the **BLM** protests before briefly saying the Capitol attack was "unsavoury". He said groups such as Amnesty International were "being bleeding heart" about the riot and should acknowledge people died during **BLM** protests. "All lives matter", he said. Maybe he hasn't done his homework, and doesn't know the origin of the phrase.

Maybe Mr McCormack doesn't know that Trump famously used the phrase in 2016 in the lead-up to his election victory, while he was copping flak for accepting the support of former Ku Klux Klan boss David Duke. Let's hope the acting PM didn't realise that phrase is just the sort of populist propaganda - with a sprinkle of plausible deniability - that won Trump the support of the far right and the neo-Nazis who are now undermining democracy.

**Load-Date:** January 13, 2021

AGITATOR? Left-wing BLM activist at Capitol riot ARRESTED after claiming he was just there to 'document' deadly siege

## AGITATOR? Left-wing BLM activist at Capitol riot ARRESTED after claiming he was just there to 'document' deadly siege

thesun.co.uk

January 15, 2021 Friday 3:43 AM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS,US NEWS,BLACK LIVES MATTER,US CAPITOL PROTESTS; Version:1

**Length:** 442 words

**Byline:** Laura Gesualdi-Gilmore

### Body

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A BLACK Lives Matter activist who said he attended last week's Capitol riots to "document" the deadly siege was arrested on Thursday.

John Sullivan, who was charged by the FBI, can allegedly be heard egging the pro-Donald Trump rioters on in footage he filmed of the attack.

He claimed to only be inside the Capitol on January 6, when Trump supporters stormed the building, to document the riots, and posted videos to his YouTube and Twitter accounts.

Johnson claimed to be a video journalist, but after his arrest, he apparently admitted to the FBI that he does not have press credentials, according to an arrest affidavit.

He's now facing federal charges of civil disorder, entering a restricted building and violent entry or disorderly conduct.

He allegedly told rioters, "We gotta get this s\*\*t burned," and "it's our house motherf\*\*\*er."

Sullivan told Rolling Stone that he was attempting to "relate" to rioters, after entering the Capitol building through a broken window.

"I had to relate to these people, and build trust in the short amount of time I had there to get where I need to go," he said.

"To the front of the crowd to see the dynamic between the police and the protesters, because nobody wants to see the backs of people's heads from a far-off distance."

Johnson is the founder of Insurgence USA, a Utah-based group set up in 2020 to protest **police brutality**, with the goal of the "unification of our nation because a people united will never be divided."

## AGITATOR? Left-wing BLM activist at Capitol riot ARRESTED after claiming he was just there to 'document' deadly siege

In an interview last week, Johnson told Fox News that he wanted to set the record straight that it was not Antifa who stormed the Capitol building, as some right wing outlets have suggested.

"There's this narrative going around right now that Antifa was the people there causing the riots, causing the tension, they were the only people breaking into the Capitol, and I wanted to be able to tell a part of history and show that that was anything but the case," Sullivan said.

Sullivan denies having any affiliation with Antifa, according to the outlet.

While he was in the Capitol building, Sullivan was reportedly able to capture footage of the moment a Capitol Police officer fatally shot Ashli Babbitt, one of five people killed during the unrest.

Investigators used this detail and other information gathered from Sullivan's videos to confirm where and when he was inside the building.

Sullivan's arrest comes as the FBI continues its crackdown on rioters who participated in the attempted Capitol siege to protest Joe Biden's win in the 2020 election.

The FBI has said that more than 100 people involved have been arrested so far, and they have identified more than 200 suspects.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2021

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BLM activist egged on Capitol rioters: Left-winger who told CNN he was there simply to document the siege is arrested after video shows he smashed window, wore ....

## **BLM activist egged on Capitol rioters: Left-winger who told CNN he was there simply to document the siege is arrested after video shows he smashed window, wore gas mask, told rioters he had knife and shouted 'we got to get this s\*\*t burned'**

MailOnline

January 15, 2021 Friday 3:05 AM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS; Version:9

**Length:** 1316 words

**Byline:** Andrew Court For Dailymail.com

### **Body**

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- John Earle Sullivan, 26, entered the Capitol Building during the siege last Wednesday
- The left-wing activist, who has previously participated in Black Lives Matter demonstrations, claimed he was simply documenting the event on his phone
- He was interviewed by Anderson Cooper on CNN afterward, where it was implied that he was passively observing the situation as it unfolded
- However, Sullivan has now been arrested after video footage appeared to show him inciting rioters
- He is charged with knowingly entering a restricted building, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, and interfering with law enforcement
- Sullivan is already facing rioting and criminal mischief charges 'stemming from a Black Lives Matter protest in Utah last year', Rolling Stone reports

A left-wing activist who told CNN he went inside the Capitol Building during last Wednesday's siege merely to document the chaos has now been arrested by police.

According to the Department of Justice, John Earle Sullivan, 26, was not simply a passive observer inside the Capitol, after video emerged purportedly showing him encouraging the rioters.

Black Lives Matter protester Sullivan, who is based in Utah, was charged Thursday with one count of knowingly entering a restricted building, one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, and one count of interfering with law enforcement.

According to a release by the DOJ, Sullivan, 'wearing a ballistics vest and gas mask, entered the U.S. Capitol through a window that had been broken out, pushing past U.S. Capitol Police once inside'.

BLM activist egged on Capitol rioters: Left-winger who told CNN he was there simply to document the siege is arrested after video shows he smashed window, wore ....

He filmed multiple videos of the event, before posting them to YouTube under his username 'Jayden X'.

In one of the clips, he is seemingly heard encouraging other rioters as they enter the building.

'We got to get this s\*\*t burned,' he purportedly states, before adding: 'It's our house motherf\*\*\*\*\*.'

Elsewhere in his recorded clips he says to rioters: 'You guys are f\*\*king savage. Let's go!'

'This s\*\*t is ours! F\*\*k yeah. I can't believe this is reality.'

The DOJ further alleges he told rioters: 'We accomplished this s\*\*t ... We are all a part of this history.'

The department added that Sullivan admits to 'filming and being depicted in video footage' from the moment Ashli Babbitt was shot dead by a Capitol police officer.

Included in the affidavit are grabs from a 50-minute-long video from Sullivan's YouTube account in which he shows off the gear he is wearing as he joins the Trump supporters at the rally.

Sullivan had voluntarily given the footage to the FBI following an interview on January 7, the day after the riot.

He is rarely seen in the video but narrates at certain points and can be heard speaking to others storming the Capitol and interacting with law enforcement.

As rioters climbed over the wall, Sullivan is heard saying 'You guys are f\*\*\*\*\*g savage, let's go!' before offering a person his hand to help him climb up.

He then films as he climbs through a broken window into the Capitol building before roaming through the building and telling law enforcement to stand down so they don't get hurt.

'You are putting yourself in harm's way,' he tells them, adding 'the people have spoken' and 'there are too many people, you gotta stand down, the people out there that tried to do that s\*\*t, they got hurt, I saw it, I'm caring about you.'

During the footage, Sullivan is seen entering an office where he looks out a window at the crowds of Trump supporters swarming outside.

'We did this, we took this s\*\*t,' he states as a banging is heard off camera.

As he pans away, the window pane beside him that was previously unbroken is now smashed.

'I broke it, my bad, my apologies,' Sullivan states.

'Well, they already broke a window so, you know. I didn't know I hit it that hard. No one got that on camera.'

At a later point, Sullivan shouts, 'Hey guys, I have a knife, I have a knife, let me up,' as he joins a group of rioters trying to break glass windows to get through another door and get further into the building.

The video provided to the FBI also includes the moment that Babbitt was shot as Sullivan stood beside her.

'There's a gun, there's a gun, there's a gun,' Sullivan had shouted moments before as the rioters broke through the windows.

'Shots fired,' he shouts again as he zooms in on the fatally injured Babbitt lying on the ground.

The shooting occurred in an area of the building that Sullivan was not allowed to be in.

BLM activist egged on Capitol rioters: Left-winger who told CNN he was there simply to document the siege is arrested after video shows he smashed window, wore ....

However, Sullivan painted a far different picture of his time inside the Capitol when he spoke with Anderson Cooper on CNN last week.

He appeared on the cable network alongside a documentary filmmaker, with the pair portrayed as passively watching the chaos unfold.

Sullivan spoke with Rolling Stone last week saying he was pretending to build rapport with those MAGA supporters who stormed the Capitol.

'I had to relate to these people, and build trust in the short amount of time,' he stated.

According to the publication, Sullivan is already facing rioting and criminal mischief charges 'stemming from a Black Lives Matter protest in Utah last year'.

He explained himself further in a Q&A posted to his YouTube account on Tuesday.

'For any misconceptions on why I was there in the first place, because I was documenting this event,' he claimed.

'This monumental event in history. If you knew about this s\*\*t, would you not be there as well. Maybe some of you are scared? And that's valid ... but I put myself in that situation all the time and that wahat my job is to do, that's what my livelihood is ... otherwise I'm broke and I have no life.

'I was there just to record and what I do is blend in with the crowd. Blending in is the key to not getting f\*\*\*\*d up.

'Yes, they were kinda doing illegal shit,' he added.

'So they were already in a position to do some more illegal s\*\*t by fucking me up ... They already think I'm Antifa which is not true and they think I'm with **BLM** and while I think black live matter I'm not with the organization.

'I have my own organization, Insurgence USA.'

Sullivan claims the organization is a social justice group that calls itself anti-fascist and protests **police brutality**.

'Our mission is the unification of our nation because a people united will never be divided,' Insurgence USA's website states.

He also spoke about his earlier encounter with the FBI in which he was detained and questioned about his videos from the Capitol after he had given several national TV interviews about what he had witnessed.

'I was not arrested, I was detained,' he said, two days before he would find himself under arrest by federal agents.

'The FBI did show up to my house yesterday and they got the original files of the video. I gave that to them via USB harddrive.

'Either they take my phone or you give them the f\*\*\*\*\*g footage, that's pretty straight forward ... I have nothing to hide.'

Sullivan is one of more than 170 people who have now been charged in relation to the siege.

He 'claimed to be an activist and journalist that filmed protests and riots' in his interview with the FBI yet admitted 'that he has no press credentials and the investigation has not revealed any connection between Sullivan and any journalistic organizations', his charging documents state.

Some pundits have been left dismayed by the seemingly soft charges that have been leveled at some of the alleged rioters. Many have thus far been charged with misdemeanor offenses.

However, acting US Attorney Michael Sherwin said his office will increase charges after more evidence is gathered.

BLM activist egged on Capitol rioters: Left-winger who told CNN he was there simply to document the siege is arrested after video shows he smashed window, wore ....

'This is only the beginning,' he told reporters on Tuesday.

'The gamut of conduct is mind-blowing. The FBI is working with the US attorney's office. We're looking at significant felony cases tied to sedition and conspiracy. Their marching orders are to build seditious and conspiracy cases. Those have prison terms of up to 20 years,' Sherwin stated.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2021

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BLM activist who was armed with a knife and egged on mob during siege of the Capitol is freed on bail despite prosecution pleading for him to remain behind bars....

## **BLM activist who was armed with a knife and egged on mob during siege of the Capitol is freed on bail despite prosecution pleading for him to remain behind bars arguing he 'thrives on chaos'**

MailOnline

January 16, 2021 Saturday 2:16 AM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS; Version:3

**Length:** 1504 words

**Byline:** Andrew Court For Dailymail.com

### **Body**

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- John Earle Sullivan, 26, entered the Capitol Building during the siege last Wednesday
- The left-wing activist, who has previously participated in Black Lives Matter demonstrations, claimed he was simply documenting the event on his phone
- He was interviewed by Anderson Cooper on CNN afterward, where it was implied that he was passively observing the situation as it unfolded
- However, Sullivan was later arrested and charged after video footage appeared to show him inciting rioters
- He made his first court appearance on Friday after being detained in Utah; he was released on bail under strict conditions
- Sullivan is already facing rioting and criminal mischief charges 'stemming from a Black Lives Matter protest in Utah last year', Rolling Stone reports

A left-wing activist charged over his role in the siege of the U.S. Capitol Building has made his first appearance in court.

John Earle Sullivan, 26, told CNN that he entered the Capitol during last Wednesday's siege merely to document the chaos, but was later arrested after video emerged purportedly showing him egging on the rioters.

Sullivan has been charged with one count of knowingly entering a restricted building, one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, and one count of interfering with law enforcement.

On Friday, he appeared via Zoom from a jail cell in Utah for his first court hearing.

A judge granted Sullivan bail on strict conditions, despite a prosecutor pleading for him to remain behind bars until after Joe Biden's Inauguration.

BLM activist who was armed with a knife and egged on mob during siege of the Capitol is freed on bail despite prosecution pleading for him to remain behind bars....

As part of his release, Sullivan has been ordered to stay inside his home in Utah, and not travel to any protests, whether locally or in Washington, DC.

He will also have to surrender his passport and avoid communication with any witnesses or co-defendants.

The 26-year-old activist has additionally been ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation and is prohibited from possessing weapons. The judge noted that Sullivan's father had removed firearms from his home.

The prosecution pleaded for Sullivan to remain behind bars until after Inauguration Day, arguing that he could pose a risk to public safety.

They claimed that the left-wing activist 'thrives on chaos'.

The judge denied the motion, saying the demand did not meet threshold under the Utah bail reform amendments.

However, the judge agreed to the prosecution's request for Sullivan to stay off social media. The left-wing activist frequently shares posts on Instagram, and uploads video to YouTube.

According to a release by the DOJ, last Wednesday, Sullivan, 'wearing a ballistics vest and gas mask, entered the U.S. Capitol through a window that had been broken out, pushing past U.S. Capitol Police once inside'.

He filmed multiple videos of the event, before posting them to YouTube under his username 'Jayden X'.

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