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Inside C2

Monday, December 28 2020

## Millions of Americans risk losing jobless benefits as Trump refuses to sign aid bill



PALM BEACH, Fla/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Millions of Americans are about to see their jobless benefits expire on Saturday as U.S. President Donald Trump has so far refused to sign into law a \$2.3 trillion pandemic aid and spending package, insisting that it did not do enough to help everyday people.

Trump stunned Republicans and Democrats alike when he said this week he was unhappy with the massive bill, which provides \$892 billion in badly needed coronavirus relief, including extending special unemployment benefits expiring on Dec. 26, and \$1.4 trillion for normal government spending.

Without Trump's signature, about 14 million people could lose those extra benefits, according to Labor Department data. A partial government shutdown will begin on Tuesday unless Congress can agree a stop-gap government funding bill before then.

After months of wrangling, Republicans and Democrats agreed to the package last weekend, with the support of the White House. Trump

who hands over power to Democratic President-elect Joe Biden on Jan. 20, did not object to terms of the deal before Congress voted it through on Monday night.

But since then he has complained that the bill gives too much money to special interests, cultural projects and foreign aid, while its one-time \$600 stimulus checks to millions of struggling Americans were too small. He has demanded that be raised to \$2,000.

"I simply want to get our great people \$2000, rather than the measly \$600 that is now in the bill," the president tweeted on Saturday.

His refusal to sign prompted sharp rebuke from Biden, who called on the outgoing Republican president to act immediately.

"This abdication of responsibility has devastating consequences...This bill is critical. It needs to be signed into law now," Biden said in a statement.

Americans face an unprecedented holiday season amid a pandemic that has killed nearly 330,000 people in the United States with a daily death toll now

repeatedly well over 3,000 people, the highest since the pandemic began.

Many economists agree the bill's aid is too low but say the immediate support is still welcome and necessary.

#### CONGRESS TO RETURN NEXT WEEK

A source familiar with the situation said Trump's objection to the bill caught many White House officials by surprise. While the outgoing president's strategy for the bill remains unclear, his repeated expression of discontent over it dashed hopes that he would sign.

Trump spent much of Thursday and the Christmas Day golfing at his club in West Palm Beach, Florida. The bill has been sent to Mar-a-Lago, his Florida residence, where he is spending Saturday.

On Friday, Trump said he has held many calls and meetings from his golf club, but neither him nor the White House provided details. He has been sending tweets repeating his baseless claims about election fraud and accusing his fellow Republicans of abandoning him in his bid to overturn the election result,

Residents of Meridian Heights apartments in Northwest Washington display a painted bedsheet protesting for the cancelation of rent due to the loss of jobs during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in Washington, D.C., U.S., August 20, 2020. REUTERS/Sarah Silbiger

already shot down multiple times by U.S. courts.

Biden, whose Nov. 3 electoral victory Trump refuses to acknowledge, is spending the holiday in his home state of Delaware.

Democratic U.S. Representative Don Beyer told CNN that Trump can still save the day if he signed the bill Saturday. "That means that the people on pandemic unemployment insurance, which runs out today, get to keep it...And the way forward if he signs this, on Monday the House will take up his \$2,000 check – direct check stuff – which we've been for all along."

The U.S. Congress, which normally is adjourned the last week of December, will be preparing to return to work. The Democratic-controlled House plans to vote on legislation providing one-time, \$2,000 checks to individuals.

Trump has also repeated his discontent over a \$740 billion bill authorizing the nation's defense programs, a legislation he vetoed last week. On Monday, the House is scheduled to vote on overriding Trump's veto. If the House vote succeeds, the Senate could hold its vote as early as Tuesday.





## WEALEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

星期-

12/26/2020

### CORONAVIRUS DIARY Wealee@scdaily.com

# Nashville Explosion On Christmas Day

The explosion came after several warnings from inside a parked RV, then the blast shattered the Christmas morning silence in the heart of Nashville, Tennessee.

Just before dawn, police received a call of gunfire in downtown Nashville and the caller said that a bomb would be detonated in the next fifteen minutes. When the RV exploded it blew out windows in shops and offices for several blocks, leaving three people hospitalized.

The police released a photo of the RV on Friday afternoon and said the vehicle arrived at the location at 1:22 AM and parked in front of the AT&T building. It is unclear if anyone was inside the RV

when it exploded.

Nashville Mayor John Cooper said that at least 41 businesses were damaged by the explosion. One building located directly across from the explosion totally collapsed.

With the nation still facing the pandemic, this tragedy will only add to the people' s sadness. Many families have lost their loved ones to the pandemic this year and there were many empty seats at Christmas dinner tables in many cities.

Before President Trump left the White House, he met in the Oval Office with Vice President Pence. Trump wants Pence to stop the ratification of the Elec-



toral College votes and to support his bid to overturn the election. Until now, Trump has refused to admit his loss.

President-elect Biden and his wife Jill issued a Christmas message to wish all the people peace, joy, health and happi-

ness in this season, but he knows that for so many of us in the country this has been a very difficult year.

We all hope the year of 2020 will be over





Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center **Chairman of International District Houston Texas** 



Stay Home!

## BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

sion to World War II.

U.S. COVID-19 Lockdown Talk Growing

#### Biden Covid Advisor Says U.S. 4- To 6-Week Lockdown Could Control COVID-19, Revive Economy

Shutting down businesses and paying peo- COVID-19 testple for lost wages for four to six weeks could help keep the coronavirus pandemic in check and get the economy on track until a vaccine is approved and distributed, said Dr. Michael Osterholm, a coronavirus advisor to President-elect Joe Biden.

Osterholm, who serves as director of the Center of Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, said earlier this week that the country is headed toward "Covid hell." Cases are rising as more people grow tired of wearing masks and social distancing, suffering from so-called "pandemic fatigue," he said Wednesday. Colder weather is also driving people indoors, where the virus can spread more easily.

A nationwide lockdown would drive the number of new cases and hospitalizations down to manageable levels while the world awaits a vaccine, he told Yahoo Finance on Wednesday.

"We could pay for a package right now to cover all of the wages, lost wages for individual workers, for losses to small companies, to medium-sized companies or city, state, county governments. We could do all of that," he said. "If we did that, then we could lock down for four to six weeks." In an interview with NBC News on Thursday, Osterholm clarified his comments, saying "it was not a recommendation. I have never made this recommendation to Biden's group. We've never talked about



Dr. Michael Osterholm, Regents Professor, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, and director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, announced advances for

ing in Minnesota. Wednesday, **April 22, 2020** in St. Paul, MN. (Photo/Glen Stubbe | Star Tribune | Getty Images)

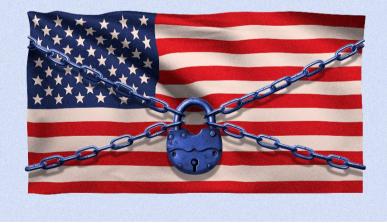
"My only point was if we are going to keep making restrictions stateby-state, there is no compensation for the businesses that are being impacted," he added. "What we're doing right now is not working."

A Biden transition official told NBC News that a shutdown "is not in line with the president-elect's thinking."

Osterholm was appointed to Biden's

12-member Covid "advisory board" on Monday. The panel of advisors is co-chaired by former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David Kessler and Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith of Yale University. Other task force members include Dr. Atul Gawande, a professor of surgery and health policy at Harvard, and Dr. Rick Bright, the vaccine expert and whistleblower who resigned his post with the Trump administration last month.

A representative for Biden did not respond to CNBC's request for comment. Osterholm on Wednesday referenced an August op-ed he wrote with Minneapolis Federal Reserve President Neel Kashkari in which the two argued for more restrictive and uniform lock-



(Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios)

#### **KEY POINTS**

Dr. Michael Osterholm, a coronavirus advisor to President-elect Joe Biden, said that a nationwide lockdown would help bring the virus under control in the U.S.

He said the government could borrow enough money to pay for a package that would cover lost income for individuals and governments during a shutdown.

"We could really watch ourselves cruising into the vaccine availability in the first and second quarter of next year while bringing back the economy long before that," he said.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

downs across the nation. The problem with the March-to-May lockdown was that it was not uniformly stringent across the country. For example, Minnesota deemed 78 percent of its workers essential," they wrote in The New York Times. "To be effective, the lockdown has to be as comprehensive and strict as possible.'



Dr. Michael Osterholm, Regents Professor, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, and

tious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, speaking in an interview with CNBC. Wednesday, On

director of the

Center for Infec-

Osterholm said such a lockdown would help the country bring the virus under control, "like they did in New Zealand and Australia." Epidemiologists have repeatedly pointed to New Zealand, Australia and parts of Asia that have brought the number of daily new cases to under 10 as an example of how to contain the virus. "We could really watch ourselves

cruising into the vaccine availability in the first and scond quarter of next year while bringing back the economy long before that," he said Wednesday.

On the current trajectory, Osterholm said the U.S. is headed for dark days before a vaccine becomes available. He said health-care systems across the country are already overwhelmed in places such as El Paso, Texas, where local officials have already closed businesses and the federal government is sending resources to handle a surge in deaths caused by

Osterholm said the country needs leadership. The president-elect is up to the task of providing that leadership, Osterholm said, adding that it could also come from local and state officials or those in the medical community. He referenced

the fireside chats broadcast over radio during former President Franklin D. Roosevelt's terms, through which Roosevelt addressed the country on issues ranging from the Great Depres-



Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said last week that the U.S. could avoid a new round of lockdowns if we'd adopt other public health measures this winter.

"People don't want to hear that El Paso isn't an isolated event. El Paso, in many instances, will become the norm," he said. "I think that the message is: How do we get through this? We need FDR moments right now. We need fireside chats. We need somebody to tell America, 'This is what in the hell is going to happen."

Right now, cases are absolutely out of control — the U.S. racked up another 151,000 infections just yesterday and that's got some experts and local leaders talking about a new round of lockdowns.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot is imposing a new stay-at-home advisory, beginning next week.

Local restrictions can help prevent local hospitals from becoming overwhelmed, but we may not need to spend much energy debating the hypothetical merits of another national lockdown. (Courtesy axios.com and www.cnbc.com)

Monday, December 28, 2020



## **Editor's Choice**



A woman stands in flooded St. Mark's Square during high tide as the flood barriers known as Mose are not raised, in Venice, Italy. REUTERS/Manuel Silvestri



A humpback whale surfaces near the Statue of Liberty in this photo taken from a boat on New York Harbor in New York City. REUTERS/Bjoern Kils/New York Media Boat



A pedestrian walks through falling snow in Boston, Massachusetts, December 17, 2020. RE-UTERS/Brian Snyder



Family members and loved ones of Jose Garcia cry as he is laid to rest at the San Jose Cemetery in La Mesa, New Mexico, December 22, 2020. Garcia, a 68-year-old farmworker and father to nine children, died of COVID-19 after being admitted to the Las Cruces hospital where his daughter Carolina works as a nurse. Justin Hamel/Handout via REUTERS



Azeri service members guard the area, which came under the control of Azerbaijan's troops following a military conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh against ethnic Armenian forces and a further signing of a ceasefire deal, on the border with Iran in Jabrayil District. REUTERS/



The Lai family look out over the Hong Kong skyline on an outing to Tsim Sha Tsui in Hong Kong, China, December 14, 2020. The family has made a wrenching decision to emigrate to Scotland, disillusioned with the hometown they love. They're among hundreds of thousands of Hong Kongers who could emigrate after the imposition of a



The headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (PDK) is seen after it was burnt during anti-government protests on the outskirts of Sulaimaniyah, Iraq. REUTERS/Ako Rasheed



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro uses a disinfectant spray after a press conference following the ruling Socialist Party's victory in legislative elections that were boycotted by the opposition in Caracas, Venezuela. REUTERS/Manaure Quintero

Monday, December 28, 2020



## COMMUNITY

Biden Will Inherit Trump's Nuclear Worries

#### **Growing North Korean Nuclear** Threat Awaits U.S. Election Winner



Thousands rally to welcome the 8th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea at Kim II Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea, Oct. 12, 2020. (Jon Chol Jin/

#### Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

WASHINGTON — "Where's the war?" That's how President Donald Trump defends his North Korea policy at campaign rallies even though he's joined the list of U.S. presidents unable to stop the ever-growing nuclear threat from Kim Jong Un. That threat will transcend the November election, no matter who wins.

Despite Trump's three meetings with Kim, the North Korean leader is expanding his arsenal. This month, Kim rolled out a shiny new, larger intercontinental ballistic missile during a nighttime parade in Pyongayng.

Arms experts said the missile could possibly fire multiple nuclear warheads at the United States. It serves as a reminder that despite Trump's boasts, North Korea remains one of the biggest dangers to U.S. national security.

North Korea hasn't been a major campaign issue, though it could surface in Thursday's debate, which is supposed to include a national security segment. Democrat Joe Biden has blasted Trump's chummy relationship with Kim, saying that, if elected, he would not meet the North Korean leader unless diplomats first draft a comprehensive agreement. Trump, meanwhile, predicts he can get a deal quickly if reelected, citing the dire conditions in North Korea.

Talk of a quick deal is probably just talk because there's no sign of significant contacts between Washington and Pyongyang, says Bruce Klingner, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation and former CIA Korea deputy chief. He and other North Korea watchers say they are bracing for Kim to showcase his military might again after the U.S. election.



Joe Biden will face urgent nuclear challenges upon entering the White House.Arms control with Russia is crumbling, Iran's uranium stockpiles are growing, and North Korea is as vexing and threatening as ever. Additionally, the last treaty constraining the world's two nuclear superpowers, New START, is due to expire 15 days after Biden takes office. (Photo illustration/ Eniola Odetunde/Axios. Photo: Drew

#### **Angerer/Getty Images)**

"North Korea already has an ICBM that can range all over the United States, down to Florida and beyond, so the only reason to have an even larger missile is to be able to carry a larger payload," Klingner said. He said it's likely that North Korea will "do something strongly provocative early next year, regardless of who is elected president."

North Korea is continuing to produce nuclear material, according to a Congressional Research Service report. In addition, between May 2019 and late March 2020, North Korea conducted multiple short-range ballistic missile tests in violation of United Nations Security Council prohibitions.

Multiple diplomatic initiatives during both Democratic and Republican administrations have failed to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons in exchange for sanctions relief. Trump dared to be different, opting for in-person meetings with Kim in Singapore, Hanoi and the Demilitarized Zone.

But despite the summits and exchanges of what Trump called "love" letters, his administration has been unable to get traction on denuclearizing North Korea. The last known working group meeting was last October.

Even so, Trump is still claiming victory, saying he's kept the U.S. out of war with North Korea.

"Where's the war?" he asked supporters last week in Greenville, North Carolina. He's used the same line in other campaign speeches in battleground states.

"We have a good relationship with Kim Jong Un," he said in Freeland, Michigan. "Who knows what likely happens? All I know is we're not in war and that's OK." Biden says that if he's elected, he will inherit a North Korean challenge that is worse than when Trump took



This image made from video broadcast by North Korea's KRT, shows a military parade with what appears to be possible new intercontinental ballistic missile at the Kim II Sung Square in Pyongyang, Oct. 10, 2020. (KRT via AP)

"After three made-for-TV summits, we still don't have a single concrete commitment from North Korea," Biden said in a statement on North Korea. "Not one missile or nuclear weapon has been destroyed. Not one inspector is on the ground. If anything, the situation has gotten worse."

He added: "North Korea has more capability today than when Trump began his 'love affair' with Kim Jong Un, a murderous tyrant who, thanks to Trump, is no longer an isolated pariah on the world stage." Biden has pledged to work with allies to press Kim to denuclearize.

Biden's advisers say the former vice president is not averse to sitting down with Kim, but not before a comprehensive negotiating strategy is outlined at working-level meetings by diplomats on both sides. The Biden campaign also criticizes Trump for scaling back military exercises with South Korea.

North Korea typically fires off missiles or conducts tests in a show of force before key U.S. and South Korean elections. This time, experts predict, Kim will engage in saber-rattling after he knows who wins.

"Kim would like to deal with President Trump, rather than Biden," said Sue Mi Terry, a former intelligence analyst specializing in East Asia who is now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She said Kim does not want to make trouble for Trump by conducting a major provocation before the election. "In January," she said. "That's the time we need to watch out for it."



In this Oct. 2, 2019, file photo provided by the North Korean government, an underwater-launched missile lifts off in the waters off North Korea's eastern coastal town of Wonsan, North Korea. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP, File)

If Biden wins, the North Koreans will want to engage with the new administration from a position of strength, according to Victor Cha, who negotiated with North Korea during the George W. Bush administration. If Trump wins, Cha thinks the president might want to move quickly to begin negotiations because he went "all in" on his man-to-man diplomacy with Kim and doesn't want to accept personal defeat.

Some experts believe that instead of repeating diplomatic failures, the U.S. should recognize the reclusive nation as a nuclear weapons state and mitigate the threat through arms control

Biden's vice presidential running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, disagrees, saving the U.S. cannot accept North Korea as a nuclear power. But she also said, in written responses to questions posed by the Council on Foreign Relations, that demanding complete denuclearization is a "recipe for failure."

She has pledged a tough approach to North Ko-

I guarantee you I won't be exchanging love letters with Kim Jong Un," she wrote. (Courtesy www.militarytimes.com/)



中国人往往把哈佛当成美国的教育典范。的确 ,哈佛大学在美国的高等教育里,是具有代表性的 。我自己在哈佛大学读了7年的研究生、博士,也曾 经辅导过许多本科生,近距离接触过他们,他们可 能是最能代表美国精英青年的一群人。

曾有一位犹太女孩子给我留下了深刻的印象: 那是1990年,她为了获得更高荣誉级别(Summa Cum Laude)的毕业生头衔,要完成本科论文撰写 。一般"学生狗"都是随便套个T恤牛仔裤,但她 总穿著高昂的外套,背著名牌包,化了精致的妆容 ;而第二个给人的印象则是她什么都不懂。我那时 的工作是在经济系的本科毕业生撰写论文时,为他 们解决计量经济学技巧和电脑技术问题,她对这些 基础学科几乎一无所知。但她什么都敢问,一点不 羞赧,完全没有怕被人鄙视的感觉,更"无厘头" 的是她还敢于向别人提要求。 当时的计算机数据都 存储在脸盆那么大的磁盘里,厚重的磁盘需要搁在 磁盘机上操作,可她经常不动手,都是我们为她 "卖力"。每当看到实验室里散落著一堆磁盘,旁 边搁著一个手袋,我们就知道"大小姐"来了…… 活来随著人事变迁,我也就慢慢淡忘了她。

第二个孩子是我的一位亲戚。她在中国上的中 学,后回到美国上哈佛大学。她的学习成绩并不突 出,刚开始在国内读高中时,数学还常常不及格。 那么她有什么资格能过入读哈佛?是她的思辨能力 。她在国内最喜欢的课居然是政治课,还常常跟政 治、文史哲各科老师辩论。加上阅读涉猎广泛,有 独特的视角,令她轻松斩获了哈佛面试官的青睐, 而其他一些学风严谨的学校却对她不感兴趣。上了 哈佛之后,她更是如鱼得水——代表所在书院参加 划艇比赛;周末更是忙的脚不沾地,参加各种聚会

预约时间;她在校园里行走时,经常是三步一声 坞制片人的录用。

、交流会,连老爸来都要

当起了按摩师,类似于我们的北大生卖 猪肉,不过在美国这可不是什么大新闻 ,大家似乎都能理解认同。

话说回来,我的这位亲戚也曾向我 坦言,哈佛的学生整体上和其他常青藤 联盟的大学,包括耶鲁、MIT、普林斯 顿的学生有点不太一样:哈佛生总是自 命不凡,总有一股子干劲、冲劲,而且 敢问敢说——不懂就问,想说就说。我 恍然大悟。这可能是美国精英教育最具 代表性的风格。

这种教育风格能够与东方教育风格 融汇吗?我最近负责清华大学一个非常 重要的国际学术项目,目标是培养国际 上一批了解中国,对中国有感情的未来 领导者。有近一半的学生来自美国。上 了几周的课之后,巨大的文化差异就显 现出来:那些非美国孩子抱怨连连,说 美国学生提问太多,老师讲课都变得断 断续续。所以现在我把课程分为两部分 , 前半段要求等我把观点完整地讲完, 剩下的时间敞开来提问、辩论。算是中

西教育的一种调和吧

"Hi",五步一个拥抱,似乎认识全校的人。毕业 的一天,我突然在电视上看到她正在演讲——而她 题"就要感觉羞愧,缺乏勇往直前、敢问敢说的精 时她已经写出了两部剧本,其中一部获得了某好莱 的身份是Facebook的首席运营官!她就是如今大名 神。 而哈佛大学不仅是典型的美式教育,更是培养 哈佛生,他的父亲是美国联邦巡回法院的大法官, 最优秀的毕业生之一,还是福布斯最有权势的女性 ,鼓舞大家努力前行。这就是领导力的体现。 也是哈佛校友。他本人毕业后,就在哈佛校园附近 之一。因此我一直在反思,我们对美国精英教育的

理解是不是有偏颇?在我们的传统教育里,学生从 那么,第一个女孩子后来怎么样了?四五年前 小就被要求要毕恭毕敬、谨言慎行,问了"低级问 鼎鼎的雪莉桑德伯格!说起来,我也是她的半个老领导型人才的地方——领导者并不一定需要高深的 当然,也不是每一个哈佛生都这样雄心勃勃, 师。如果20年前,你问我,桑德伯格以后会不会与 专业背景,重要的是不懂就要敢于发问,敢于在众 自如的游走在各种人际关系里,我曾经遇到过一位 有出息?我会断然否定,可事实呢?她不仅是哈佛 人面前表达观点,动员团队里的各色人等认同自己





