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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



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Graphic video of Capitol attack opens Trump's historic impeachment trial



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Donald Trump's historic post-presidency impeachment trial began in the Senate on Tuesday, with Democrats who are hoping to disqualify him from again holding public office again showing graphic video of last month's deadly storming of the U.S. Capitol that he is charged with inciting.

The dramatic proceedings in the 100-seat Senate focused upon the question of whether holding a trial after Trump has left office, as he did on Jan. 20, violates the U.S. Constitution, which allows for impeachment for "high crimes and misdemeanors."

House of Representatives Democrats serving as prosecutors opened their case by showing video of Trump supporters violently overwhelming police at the Capitol in the Jan. 6 attack after he had encouraged people in a speech to "fight like hell" to overturn his Nov. 3 election

"If that's not an impeachment offense, then there is no such thing," Democratic congressman Jamie Raskin, who led the prosecution, told the assembled senators - serving as jurors - after showing the video.

The video showed Trump backers throwing down barriers and hitting police officers. It showed the moment that protesters tried to break through the doors of the House chamber as lawmakers sheltered within, including when a police officer shot and killed a protester, U.S. Air Force veteran Ashli Babbitt, as she tried to climb through a broken window.

In another scene, a rioter sifting through the contents of

to be something here we can use against the scumbags."

Convicting Trump would require a two-thirds majority, meaning that at least 17 Republicans would need to join the Senate's 48 Democrats and two independents in voting against Trump. That is a tall order.

In the Capitol assault, the mob attacked police, sent lawmakers scrambling for safety and interrupted the formal congressional certification of President Joe Biden's victory after Trump had spent two months challenging the election results. Five people died, including a police officer.

Some 170 police officers were injured.

RELATED COVERAGE

Factbox: Five Republicans who said Trump's post-presidency impeachment trial is constitutional

Trump was impeached by the Democratic-led House on Jan. 13 on a charge of inciting an insurrection. Democrats hope to disqualify Trump from ever again holding public office.

Trump is the only president to go on trial in the Senate after leaving office and the only one to be impeached twice. He appears likely to be acquitted thanks to support from fellow Republicans in the narrowly divided Senate.

'GRAVEST CHARGES'

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, called the accusation against Trump: "The gravest charges ever brought against a president of the United States in American history."

Before the attack, Trump claimed falsely that widespread voting fraud lost him the election to Biden. Senators watched video of Trump addressing supporters at a rally that preceded the attack, repeating his false claims of election fraud

"Presidents can't inflame insurrection in their final weeks and then walk away like nothing happened. And yet that is the rule that President Trump asks you to adopt," Democratic congressman Joe Neguse told the senators. "I urge you - we urge you - to decline his request, to vindicate the Constitution, to let us try this case."

Most of the senators at the trial were present in the Capitol on Jan. 6, when many lawmakers said they feared for their own safety.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, was silent while watching the video montage on Tuesday. He sat still, with his hands clasped loosely in his lap.

Defense lawyers plan to argue that only a sitting president can face an impeachment trial. But a majority of legal experts say it is constitutional to have the trial after an official has left office, said Michigan State University law professor Brian Kalt, a leading impeachment scholar.

Senate Democrats are expected to prevail in a Tuesday vote on the constitutionality of the trial. A Republican effort to block the trial on those grounds was defeated 55-45 last month.

The trial is being held with extraordinary security around the Capitol in the wake of the siege including armed security forces and a perimeter of fencing and razor wire.

TUMULTUOUS FOUR YEARS

The trial could provide clues on the direction of the Republican Party following Trump's tumultuous four-year presidency.

Sharp divisions have emerged between Trump lovalists and those hoping to move the party in a new direction. Meanwhile, Democrats are concerned the trial could impede Biden's ability to swiftly advance an ambitious legislative agenda.

Trump's defense has also argued he was exercising his right to free speech under the Constitution's First Amendment when he addressed supporters at a rally in Washington on the day of the Capitol attack.

On Wednesday, the prosecution and defense are due to turn to the merits of the charge.

They will have 32 hours evenly divided over no more than four days to present their cases. The proceedings could be extended further, with senators having time to question both sides.

One year ago, the then-Republican-controlled Senate acquitted Trump on charges of obstructing Congress and abuse of power related to his pressure on Ukraine to launch

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Wednesday, February 10, 2021

WEALEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

02/08/2021

CORONAVIRUS DIARY Wealee@scdaily.com

Second Senate Impeachment **Trial Starts Today**



The second impeachment trial of former Trump believes he will be acquitted at President Donald Trump started today in the U.S. Senate. The ultimate outcome of the trial is not in doubt: Trump will be acquitted because it falls short of the 67 votes needed in senate.

Trump himself at the trial, a move that was rejected by Trump's legal team.

In Washington, Secretary of State An- We hope that the trial will reveal more of thony Blinken said former the president' s followers' insurrection attempt on the Capitol has hurt the United States' ability to speak up for democracy and human rights.

his trial based on the fact that there won ' t be enough Republican senators to vote to convict the ex-president.

Former President Trump's legal team accused the Democrats of impeaching House Democrats sought testimony from Trump for political theater and they argued that the trial is unconstitutional because Trump is no longer the president.

> the story about the January 6th insurrection so that the truth will be told to the people.

During the last two weeks before he left office, Trump was fixated on punishing the GOP congressmen who voted to impeach him in the House.

We really worry that Trump's actions will still do damage to the political environment. As one former White House of-



Southern News Group Chairman / CEO **Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center** Chairman of International District Houston Texas

ficial said, "Trump was enjoying the spectacle created by the riot at the Capitol on Jan 6th. He was loving watching the Capitol mob."

Today the nation is still facing challenges on many fronts. The \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill is still in the Senate. We all hope this bill will pass as soon as possible in order to help the many suffering people.





Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Johnson & Johnson Could **Deliver 100 Million COVID** Vaccine Doses By June



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

Johnson & Johnson could deliver about 100 million doses of its coronavirus vaccine by the end of June, officials said Monday — if it's cleared for use by the federal government.

Andy Slavitt, a White House adviser on COVID-19, gave the estimate during a briefing on the battle against the virus, but noted that the feds are planning cautiously by not assuming the shot will be green-lit — and that even if is, the bulk likely won't arrive until closer to the sum-

"The schedule, if it were to be approved under EUA [the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization] would be about 100 million doses by the end of the second quarter. That's the end of June," said Slavitt. "I would not, at this point, be overly confident that those doses would come evenly. I would expect that they would come towards the end of that contract.

"We're not planning for facts that aren't yet in evidence," he added. "Obviously, there would be some improvement should there be a third dose. The expectation, however, should not be that that is an immediate, dramatic shift,"

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine would have some advantages and disadvantages compared to the two inoculations currently available in the US, made by Moderna and Pfizer-BioN-Tech. Unlike the two existing vaccines, the Johnson & Johnson version would not need to be stored at super-cold temperatures, allowing it to be more widely distributed to areas that may not have ready access to the extreme stor-



The Johnson & Johnson shot has only been found to have about 72 percent efficacy in US trials.REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/Illustra-

Additionally, it would be available in one shot, as opposed to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which both require two doses administered a few weeks apart. However, the

Johnson & Johnson shot has only been found getting infected." to have about 72 percent efficacy in US trials. The nationwide vaccination effort has been ham— The results show that antibodies generated by whereas the other two vaccines rank in the

Speaking during the same briefing as Slavitt. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious disease expert, said that, should the Johnson & Johnson vaccine hit the market, it may suit some people's needs more than the Moderna and Pfizer products.

"There will be situations where people will say to themselves, 'Do I want to get a single-dose vaccine and know that I'm protected against serious disease, or do I want to go with a number that's a 94-to-95 [percent efficacy]," said Fauci. "I can tell you that there

are many people who would rather have the convenience of a single dose. ... There's a lot more to protection than just preventing from getting infected."

The nationwide vaccination effort has been hampered by supply-chain issues and limits on the federal government's allocation of shots to states. But after 1.6 million people were vaccinated on Inauguration Day, the effort did not exceed that mark until Jan. 28, when 1.7 million people were inoculated, according to Bloomberg News' tracker. In the past week, the country has averaged around 1.3 million shots a day.

The figures exceed the 1 million daily pace needed to meet President Biden's pledge to inoculate 100 million Americans during his first 100 days in office.



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Pfizer: Coronavirus Vaccine Proves **Effective Against Virus Mutations**

The coronavirus vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech is effective against the new strains of the virus first found in the United Kingdom and South Africa, Pfizer says.

Preliminary results show the mutations had only a small impact on the effectiveness of the antibodies generated by the vaccine.

A laboratory study by the pharmaceutical company, which has been published online but not peer reviewed yet, shows that the new variants of COVID-19 had only a small impact on the effectiveness of the antibodies generated by the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine, making the antibodies only slightly less effective.



Pfizer said the "findings do not indicate the need for a new vaccine to address the emerging variants." (Photo/T. Kienzle/AFP via Getty

The COVID-19 variants, which seem to be more transmissible and are now in countries across the globe, have worried officials and the public. While Pfizer's findings appear promising, they are preliminary. The laboratory study tested only a subset of mutations sound in the variants of the coronavirus, not the variants themselves, and the researchers did not assess whether their results were statistically significant.

the vaccine were slightly better at responding to the virus that had some of the mutations found in the U.K. strain. Further research testing antibodies on the variants themselves is ongoing. Pfizer said the "findings do not indicate the need for a new vaccine to address the emerging variants," adding that it and BioNTech are prepared to respond to a vaccine-resistant mutation of the coronavirus.

Moderna, which developed the other COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use in the U.S., announced this week that its vaccine protects against the variants, also with fewer antibodies, and the company is looking into a booster shot. (Courtesy https://www.usnews.



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Editor's Choice



Demonstrators riot against police as they protest against the military coup in Mandalay, Myanmar, February 9, 2021. REUTERS/Stringer



A police officer aims during clashes with protestors rallying against the military coup and demanding the release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, February 9, 2021. REUTERS/Stringer



Police uses a water canon against demonstrators as they protest against the military coup and to demand the release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, in Mandalay, Myanmar, February 9, 2021. REUTERS/Stringer



People cover with plastic in case of a water canon during a rally against the military coup in Yangon, Myanmar, February 9, 2021. REUTERS/Stringer



Police officers detain a man during protests against Haiti's President Jovenel Moise in Port-au-Prince, Haiti February 8, 2021. REUTERS/Jeanty Junior Augustin



Police clash with demonstrators during protests against Haiti's President Jovenel Moise in Port-au-Prince, Haiti February 8, 2021. REUTERS/Jeanty Junior Augustin



A man tries to unlock his motorcycle while standing in a cloud of tear gas during protests against Haiti's President Jovenel Moise in Port-au-Prince, Haiti February 8, 2021. REUTERS/Jeanty Junior Augustin



A man holds a photograph of Supreme Court Judge Joseph Mecene Jean-Louis during protests against Haiti's President Jovenel Moise in Port-au-Prince, Haiti February 8, 2021. REUTERS/Jeanty Junior Augustin

Wednesday, February 10, 2021



COMMUNITY

Biden Calls In Active-Duty Troops For COVID-19 Vaccination Effort



A member of the U.S. Marines registers people wearing protective masks outside a COVID-19 vaccination hub inside Yankee Stadium in the Bronx borough of New York, U.S., on Feb. 5, 2021. (Photo/Angus Mordant—Bloomberg/Getty Images)

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

Making good on President Joe Biden's promises for additional U.S. military support in the national fight against COVID-19, the Pentagon committed for the first time to deploy teams of active-duty service members to support mass vaccination centers. On Friday, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approved a request to deploy 1,110 troops across the country to help combat the deadly disease with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). There will be a total of five teams, each comprising 222 personnel, including nurses, vaccinators and clinical staff. The move marks a significant change from the Trump Administration, which was reluctant to use the armed forces in vaccine delivery and administration, opting instead to rely on private industry. The slow pace of vaccinations, though, prompted Biden to arrange a more muscular federal response, ordering FEMA and

the Pentagon to team up and establish 100 mass vaccination centers within a month.

White House coronavirus adviser Andy Slavitt said in a briefing that two of the centers are opening in California, and troops will arrive at the sites within the next 10 days. "The military's critical role in supporting sites will help vaccinate thousands of people per day, and ensure that every American who wants a vaccine will receive one," Slavitt said. The COVID-19 vaccines authorized so far, from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, each require two shots spaced about a month apart. Only about 6.9 million Americans have received both required doses to become fully inoculated, which roughly translates to 2% of the U.S. population. Meanwhile, there are currently 26 million confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S. with nearly 456,000

deaths, which is the largest toll of any



A member of the military assists the civilian vaccination effort.

From the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the military has supported the Department of Health and Human Services in a range of missions from building emergency hospitals to overseeing vaccine logistics. But thus far the military has not gotten into the last phase of the multifaceted inoculation campaign. The U.S. military has a long history of responding to natural disasters in the U.S. and overseas, which tend to strike a single region. The coronavirus pandemic is ravaging the U.S. in waves, hitting all 50 states, with multiple major outbreaks. The Biden Administration also announced plans to invoke use the Defense Production Act (DPA) to mobilize U.S. private production capacity to manufacture the supplies for at-home virus tests, surgical gloves and Pfizer-BioN-Tech's vaccine. Initially signed into law by President Harry Truman in 1950 in response to the Korean War, the DPA is historically based on the War Powers Acts of World War II. Its sweeping authorities allow the president to demand businesses and corporations to prioritize and accept government contracts for materials during natural disasters, terrorist attacks and other national emergencies. (Courtesy https://time.com/)

NFL offers Biden all 30 football stadiums as mass Covid

Related



Sofi Stadium (shown), home of the Los Angeles Rams in Inglewood, California. Keith Birmingham | MediaNews Group | Getty Images

KEY POINTS

The National Football League told
President Joe Biden that it is
making all of its 30 football stadiums
available for mass
coronoravirus

vaccinations for the general public. Currently, seven NFL teams are hosting vaccinations

for Covid-19 at or near their stadiums. The offer came days before the Super Bowl championship game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the

Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Seven NFL teams already are hosting vaccinations for

COVID-19 at or near their stadiums "The NFL and our 32 member clubs are committed to doing our part to ensure that vaccines are as widely available in our communities as possible," the league's commissioner, Roger Goodell, wrote in a letter to Biden on Thursday.



"We can expand our efforts to stadiums more effectively because many of our clubs have offered their facilities previously as COVID testing centers as well as election sites over the past several months," Goodell wrote.

His letter said that each NFL team would coordinate with local, state and federal health officials on the vaccination efforts at the stadiums, two of which are shared by a pair of teams. That was already happening in San Francisco, where the 49ers team and Santa Clara County announced Friday that Levi's Stadium would next week begin being used as a vaccination site for local residents.

The team said that the stadium will be California's largest vaccination site, with an initial capacity of 5,000 people receiving shots per day, and plans to increase that to 15,000 people each day as vaccine supplies rise.

Goodell noted that the NFL will have 7,500 vaccinated health-care workers from across the country as guests at this Sunday's Super Bowl game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The commissioner said the workers were invited "in gratitude for their heroic service and to highlight the importance of vaccinations as our country recovers from the pandemic."

The NFL referred questions to the White House when contacted by CNBC. The Biden administration had no immediate comment.

The league's current vaccination sites are being hosted by the Arizona Cardinals, Atlanta Falcons, Baltimore Ravens, Carolina Panthers, Houston Texans, Miami Dolphins and New England Patriots. (Courtesy https://www.cnbc.com/)



