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Inside C2

Sunday, October 03 2020

# Biden visits Congress to rally votes for his agenda, vows to 'get it done'



WASHINGTON, Oct 1 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden on Friday urged his fellow Democrats in Congress to overcome divisions that threaten his agenda and pass legislation to bolster safety-net programs, fight climate change and rebuild the nation's roads and bridges.

Biden's visit to the Capitol capped a tumultuous week that saw lawmakers narrowly avert a government shutdown and postpone a House of Representatives vote on a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill already passed by the Senate

Fresh disagreements emerged among Democrats over the size of a multi-trillion-dollar companion bill that would fund health, education and climate measures.

The president acknowledged in a closed-door meeting that Democrats currently did not have enough votes to pass the two massive spending bills that have divided moderates and progressives, lawmakers said. "It doesn't matter whether it's in six minutes, six days or in six weeks. We're going to get it done," Biden

told reporters after the meeting.

Members of the party's progressive wing vow to block the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill until they can be sure that moderates will not derail the bigger social spending and climate change bill. Moderates say that bill is too expensive.

U.S. presidents rarely visit Capitol Hill, preferring to summon lawmakers to the White House for discussions. Democrats said they hoped Biden's visit could help renew momentum.

"I think the president might be the only person that can bridge both the trust gap and the timing gap," Representative Dean Phillips said before the

Lawmakers said Biden told them the social-spending bill should cost about \$2 trillion -- a significant drop from his initial \$3.5 trillion proposal, and closer to the \$1.5 trillion that key moderate Senator Joe Manchin said he would support.

Democratic leaders in the House did not appear to have a clear plan to resolve the impasse earlier. U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi talks with members of her House of Representatives leadership team, including House Majority Leader Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), House Majority Whip Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) and Assistant Speaker Katherine Clark (D-MA) at the "In America: Remember" public art installation of hundreds of thousands of flags commemorating Americans who have died due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19), that has been installed on the Washington Monument grounds in Washington, U.S. October 1, 2021. REUTERS/Leah Millis

"We are working on trying to get to a place where everybody is comfortable,"
No. 2 House Democrat Steny Hoyer told reporters before Biden's visit.

With a narrow majority in the House, Biden's party cannot afford to lose too many votes on the infrastructure legislation, which would double spending on roads and other infrastructure. The bill has already passed the Senate with bipartisan support.

Democrats said they also planned a vote to ensure that transportation funding, which expired on Thursday, is not disrupted while they continue to negotiate.

Progressives are angry that two Senate moderates - Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema - oppose the size of Biden's plan to boost social spending and fight climate change. The Senate is split 50-50 with Republicans, all of whom oppose the multi-trillion-dollar bill, so every Democratic vote is needed for passage with Vice President Kamala Harris the tie breaker.

Sinema has met with Biden multiple times to discuss the bill. She was home in Arizona on Friday but remained in touch with the White House, a spokesman said.

House Republicans are unlikely to help pass the infrastructure bill, eager to deny Biden a policy victory ahead of the 2022 midterm elections, when history favors their chances to recapture majorities.

DEBT-CEILING THREAT

Congress has little time to focus on the infrastructure fight due to another fast-approaching deadline: the debt ceiling.

A historic U.S. debt default could occur around Oct. 18, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has estimated, if Congress fails to give the government additional borrowing authority beyond the current statutory limit of \$28.4 trillion.

Republicans want no part of the debt limit increase, saying it is Democrats' problem since they control Congress and the White House. Democrats note that about \$5 trillion of the nation's debt is the result of tax cuts and spending passed during Republican Donald Trump's presidency.

The House approved a bill late on Wednesday suspending the debt limit through December 2022. The Senate could vote on it "as early as next week," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said, but Republicans are expected to block it again as they have twice before.



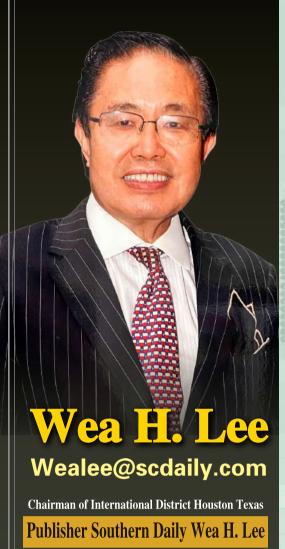
2021年10月3日

Sunday, October 3, 2021

# TEALEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY 10/02/2021

# We All Need To Live In Hope



Southern News Group Chairman / CEO Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas







We often call Autumn the season of the year between summer and winter when the temperature gradually decreases, the leaves fall from the trees and the temperature transitions between summer heat and winter cold.

I was walking through my backyard where many trees are changing their colors to red or brown and suddenly I felt a deep sadness as many tragedies passed through my mind.

In the last twenty months the world has really turned upside down because of the Covid-19. We lost many of our dear friends, brothers and sisters. They lost the battle with the coronavirus and many families lost their loved ones or their businesses which they had built up over

their lifetime.

Dear brothers and sisters, we still need to live in hope. Hope can erode when we perceive a threat to our way of life and these days all of us face plenty of uncertainty out there.

All of us need to have hope even when there is no hope. People can't picture a desired end to their struggles and they lose their motivation to endure.

According to research at

Harvard, they found that those with more hope throughout their lives had better physical health, better health behaviors, better social support and longer lives.

Today we live in a very chaotic world. Many things are uncertain.

We need to make our minds stronger every day and always look for more hope to help each other fight for a better future.

























### **Editor's Choice**



Former diplomat Michael Kovrig, released from detention in China, embraces his wife Vina Nadjibulla following his arrival on a Canadian air force jet at Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Ontario, Canada September 25, 2021. Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou flew home to China from Canada after reaching an agreement with U.S. prosecutors to end the



A couple hugs as they look at the white flags, September 26, 2021. "Once you take one flag and think about all the grief that is embodied by that flag, then you lift your gaze. That's the power of this art - understanding the immensity of our loss," said Firstenberg, adding that the flags are meant to mimic the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts



New York State Governor Kathy Hochul wears a necklace that reads "Vaxed" at a news conference about the coronavirus vaccination mandate for healthcare workers, in New York City, September 27, 2021. REUTERS/ David 'Dee' Delgado



Lava is seen through the window of a kitchen from El Paso following a volcanic eruption on the Canary Island of La Palma, Spain, September 28, 2021. The Cumbre Vieia volcano, which has been ejecting a destructive cocktail of ash, smoke and lava since Sept. 19, has destroyed more than 800 buildings, as well as banana plantations, roads and other infrastructure. REUTERS/Jon



Chloe Benuen of the Innu First Nation poses in traditional costume and a red handprint on her face that symbolizes missing and murdered indigenous women, after a ceremony at an annual Innu clan gathering on the eve of Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, at Gull Island, Labrador, Canada September 29, 2021. The day honors the lost children and survivors of indigenous residential schools, their families and communities. REUTERS/Greg Locke



Demonstrators burn the belongings of Venezuelan migrants at a makeshift camp in a public square during a rally against their migration in Iquique, Chile, September 25, 2021. Thousands of local Chileans marched with anti-immigration slogans and set fire to belongings of the Venezuelan migrants, tossing clothes and mattresses in bonfires in the street, after a camp was cleared by police. REUTERS/Alex Diaz



## Southern Make Today Different

### **BUSINESS**

**COVID-19 Toll Not As Heavy, But The Pandemic Is Not Over** 

### U.S. COVID-19 Deaths Officially Surpass 1918 U.S. Flu Deaths



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

the 675,000 estimated deaths that occurred global travel came to a halt and public during the H1N1 influenza pandemic of health measures such as social distanc-1918, but SARS-CoV-2 hasn't exacted as ing and masking were implemented heavy a toll as that pandemic.

million people at that time -- about a third of were investigated in real-time with a the current total of 330 million Americans -- few proving helpful (with more still in the 1918 pandemic killed roughly 1 in 150 development). people in the U.S.; COVID has killed 1 in 500 Americans.

Globally, the 1918 flu wrought more havoc than COVID, too, infecting about 500 million people, or a third of the world's a curveball with the far more transmispopulation at that time. It killed about 50 million people globally, according to CDC estimates.

SARS-CoV-2 has infected nearly 230 million people around the world and killed some 4.7 million of them.

in infection and mortality. The 1918 pandemic hit while the world was enmeshed in World War I and international travel was ing members of U.S. Congress, Govmedicines and technology at their disposal to treat patients; the cause of the illness was CCDH; and Russian propaganda." unidentifiable and therefore a test, targeted With the U.S. now averaging some treatment, or vaccine was impossible.



U.S. COVID-19 deaths have now surpassed During the COVID-19 pandemic, relatively rapidly, vaccines were pro-With a national population of around 103 duced in record time, and treatments

> Still, misinformation and disinformation campaigns stymied the effectiveness of some of those approaches in the U.S., and the virus threw humanity sible Delta variant.

"Since May, [more than] 100,000 Americans unnecessarily lost their lives because they chose not to get vaccinated," tweeted Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, of Baylor College of Medicine in There are many reasons for the differences Houston. "They fell victim to the vile yet unopposed antiscience aggression from 3 sources: The far right includfrequent; hospitals didn't have the same ernors, conservative news outlets; the 'disinformation dozen' identified by

> 2,000 deaths per day, and the potential for sustained, high levels of transmission to spawn another variant, SARS-CoV-2 can still wreak much more havoc. Whether that ever reaches 1918 H1N1 proportions remains to be seen. The comparison to the 1918 flu pandemic also serves as a reminder of

the risk that influenza poses. Since 1918, three other influenza pandemics occurred in the U.S.: H2N2 in 1957, H3N2 in 1968, and H1N1 in 2009. These pandemics were all far less severe than the first H1N1 pandemic. But that doesn't mean another killer flu -- or another deadly coronavirus -outbreak is off the table.



A reflection on the progress made since the 1918 pandemic by two CDC scientists published in Science for the 100-year anniversary of that outbreak concludes: "Philosopher George Santayana pointed out, 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' We are no doubt more prepared in 2018 for an infectious disease threat than in 1918. But it is critical to remember that preparation only stems from a global commitment to share data about viral isolates, support innovative research, and dedicate resources to assess the pandemic risk of new and emerging influenza viruses from zoonotic reservoirs." (Courtesy medpagetoday.com)

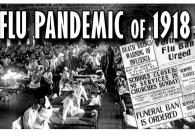
#### **COVID Has Now Killed As Many** Americans As The 1918-19 Flu

COVID-19 has now killed as many Americans as the 1918-19 Spanish flu pandemic did — approximately 675,000.

The U.S. population a century ago was just one-third of what it is today, meaning the flu cut a much bigger, more lethal swath through the country. But the COVID-19 crisis is by any measure a colossal tragedy in its own right, especially given the incredible advances in scientific knowledge since then and the failure to take maximum advantage of the vaccines available this time. "Big pockets of American society — and, worse, their leaders — have thrown this away," medical historian Dr. Howard Markel of the University of Michigan said of the opportunity to vaccinate everyone eligible by now. Like the Spanish flu, the coronavirus

may never entirely disappear from our

midst. Instead, scientists hope it becomes a mild seasonal bug as human immunity strengthens through vaccination and repeated infection. That



'We hope it will be like getting a cold, but there's no guarantee," said Emory University biologist Rustom Antia, who suggests an optimistic scenario in which this could happen over a few

For now, the pandemic still has the United States and other parts of the world firmly in its jaws. While the delta-fueled surge in infections may have peaked, U.S. deaths are running at over 1,900 a day on average, the highest level since early March, and the country's overall toll topped 675,000 Monday, according to the count kept by Johns Hopkins University, though the real number is believed to be higher. Winter may bring a new surge, with the University of Washington's influential model projecting an additional 100,000 or so Americans will die of COVID-19 by Jan. 1, which would bring the overall U.S. toll to 776,000. The 1918-19 influenza pandemic killed 50 million victims globally at a time when the world had one-quarter the population it does now. Global deaths from COVID-19 now stand at more than 4.6 million.



Photo shows a demonstration at the Red Cross Emergency Ambulance Station in Washington during the influenza pandemic of 1918. Historians think the pandemic started in Kansas in early 1918, and by winter 1919 the virus had infected a third of the global population and killed

at least 50 million people, including 675,000 Americans. Some estimates put the toll as high as 100 million. (Library of Congress via AP, File)

The Spanish flu's U.S. death toll is a rough guess, given the incomplete records of the era and the poor scientific understanding of what caused the illness. The 675,000 figure comes from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The ebbing of COVID-19 could happen if the virus progressively weakens as it mutates and more and more humans' immune systems learn to attack it. Vaccination and surviving infection are the main ways the immune system improves. Breast-fed infants also gain some immunity from their mothers.

Under that optimistic scenario, schoolchildren would get mild illness that trains their immune systems. As they grow up, the children would carry the immune response memory, so that when they are old and vulnerable, the coronavirus would be no more dangerous than cold viruses.

The same goes for today's vaccinated teens: Their immune systems would get stronger through the shots and mild infections

"We will all get infected," Antia predicted. "What's important is whether the infections are severe."



Something similar happened with the H1N1 flu virus, the culprit in the 1918-19 pandemic. It encountered too many people who were immune, and it also eventually weakened through mutation. H1N1 still circulates today, but immunity acquired through infection and vaccination has triumphed. Getting an annual flu shot now protects against H1N1 and several other strains of flu. To be sure, flu kills between 12,000 and 61,000 Americans each year, but on average, it is a seasonal problem and a manageable one.

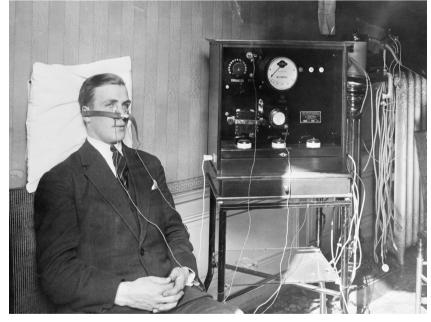
Before COVID-19, the 1918-19 flu was universally considered the worst pandemic disease in human history. Whether the current scourge ultimately proves deadlier is unclear.

(Article continues below)



(Article continues from above)

#### U.S. COVID-19 Deaths Officially Surpass 1918 U.S. Flu Deaths



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

In many ways, the 1918-19 flu — which was ulation has received at least one dose, according wrongly named Spanish flu because it first re- to Our World in Data, with some African counceived widespread news coverage in Spain was worse. Spread by the mobility of World War I, it killed young, healthy adults in vast numbers. said Dr. Jeremy Brown, director of emergency No vaccine existed to slow it, and there were no care research at the National Institutes of Health, antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections. who wrote a book on influenza. "They can do ter-And, of course, the world was much smaller.

Yet jet travel and mass migrations threaten to in- COVID-19 could have been far less lethal in the crease the toll of the current pandemic. Much of U.S. if more people had gotten vaccinated fastthe world is unvaccinated. And the coronavirus er, "and we still have an opportunity to turn it has been full of surprises.

France demonstrates a machine he claimed could The current vaccines work extremely well in cure cold and flu symptoms in under one hour in about 1919.

Markel said he is continually astounded by the magnitude of the disruption the pandemic has brought to the planet.

"I was gobsmacked by the size of the quarantines" the Chinese government undertook initially, Markel said, "and I've since been gob-gobgob-smacked to the nth degree." The lagging pace of U.S. vaccinations is the latest source of his astonishment.

Just under 64% of the U.S. population has re-ever-mutating virus hasn't changed enough to ceived as least one dose of the vaccine, with state evade vaccines or to cause severe illness in unrates ranging from a high of approximately 77% in Vermont and Massachusetts to lows around If the virus changes significantly, a new vac-46% to 49% in Idaho, Wyoming, West Virginia cine using the technology behind the Pfizer and Mississippi. Globally, about 43% of the pop- and Moderna shots could be produced in 110

tries just beginning to give their first shots.

"We know that all pandemics come to an end," rible things while they're raging."

around," Brown said. "We often lose sight of how Professor Border of the University of Lyon in lucky we are to take these things for granted." preventing severe disease and death from the

> ay for Influenza Epidemic Closes Schools, Churches, Theatres ORUG STORES HEALTH COMMISSIONER ISSUES NORTH END PUTS Swamped with Proclamation ordering drastic New Punch Into "Flu" victims methods to check disease spread war bond drive

variants of the virus that have emerged so far.

It will be crucial for scientists to make sure the vaccinated children, Antia said.

days, a Pfizer executive said Wednesday. The pandemics." company is studying whether annual shots with the current vaccine will be required to keep im-

One plus: The coronavirus mutates at a slower pace than flu viruses, making it a more stable target for vaccination, said Ann Marie Kimball. a retired University of Washington professor of epidemiology.

So, will the current pandemic unseat the 1918-19 flu pandemic as the worst in human history? "You'd like to say no. We have a lot more infection control, a lot more ability to support people who are sick. We have modern medicine," Kimball said. "But we have a lot more people and a lot more mobility. ... The fear is eventually a new strain gets around a particular

vaccine target." To those unvaccinated individuals who are counting on infection rather than vaccination for immune protection, Kimball said, "The trouble is, you have to survive infection to acquire the immunity." It's easier, she said, to go to the drugstore and get a shot. (Courtesy apnews.com)

The 1918 Flu Pandemic Never Really Ended After infecting millions of people worldwide, the 1918 flu strain shifted—and then stuck around.

An unthinkable 50 to 100 million people worldwide died from the 1918-1919 flu pandemic commonly known as the "Spanish Flu." It was the deadliest global pandemic since the Black Death, and rare among flu viruses for striking down the young and healthy, often within days of exhibiting the first symptoms. In the United States, the 1918 flu pandemic lowered the average life expectancy by 12 years.



What's even more remarkable about the 1918 flu, say infectious disease experts, is that it never really went away. After infecting an estimated 500 million people worldwide in 1918 and 1919 (a third of the global population), the H1N1 strain that caused the Spanish flu receded into the background and stuck around as the regular seasonal flu. But every so often, direct descendants of the 1918 flu combined with bird flu or swine flu to create powerful new pandemic strains, which is exactly what happened in 1957, 1968 and 2009. Those later flu outbreaks, all created in part by the 1918 virus, claimed millions of additional lives, earning the 1918 flu the odious title of "the mother of all

COMMUNITY

The Deadly Virus Struck in Three Waves Jeffrey Taubenberger was part of the pioneering scientific team that first isolated and sequenced the genome of the 1918 flu virus in the late 1990s. The painstaking process involved extracting viral RNA from autopsied lung samples taken from American soldiers who died from the 1918 flu, plus one diseased lung preserved in the Alaskan permafrost for nearly 100 years. Now chief of the Viral Pathogenesis and Evolution Section at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Taubenberger explains that genetic analyses of the 1918 flu indicate that it started as an avian flu and represented a completely new viral strain when it made the leap to humans shortly before 1918. Lab tests of the reconstructed 1918 virus show that in its original form, the virus's novel encoded proteins made it 100 times more lethal in mice than today's seasonal flu. The 1918 pandemic struck in three distinct waves over a 12-month period. It first appeared in the spring of 1918 in North America and Europe largely in the trenches of World War I, then reemerged in its deadliest form in the fall of 1918, killing tens of millions of people worldwide from September through November. The final wave swept across Australia, the United States and Europe in the late winter and spring of 1919. But did the 1918 flu simply "go away" after that third wave? Absolutely not, says Taubenberger.

Virus Mutates Into Seasonal Flu



Since the whole world had been exposed to the virus, and had therefore developed natural immunity against it, the 1918 strain began to mutate and evolve in a process called "antigenic drift." Slightly altered versions of the 1918 flu reemerged in the winters of 1919-1920 and 1920-1921, but they were far less deadly and nearly indistinguishable from the seasonal flu "The 1918 flu definitely lost its real virulence by the early 1920s," says Taubenberger. But what's truly incredible, according to genetic analyses, is that the same novel strain of flu first introduced in 1918 appears to be the direct ancestor of every seasonal and pandemic flu

we've had over the past century. "You can still find the genetic traces of the 1918 virus in the seasonal flus that circulate today," says Taubenberger. "Every single human infection with influenza A in the past 102 years is derived from that one introduction of the 1918

#### Welcome to the Pandemic Era

The 1918 flu pandemic was by far the deadliest flu outbreak of the 20td 21h anst centuries to date, but it wasn't the only one to qualify as a pandemic. Even with the advent of the first seasonal flu vaccines after World War II, the flu virus has proven capable of some unexpected and deadly genetic tricks. In a normal flu season, vaccine scientists can track the most active viral strains and produce a vaccine that protects against changes in the human flu virus from year to year. But every so often, viral genes from the animal kingdom enter the mix.

"If one animal is infected with two different influenza viruses at the same time," says Taubenberger, "maybe one virus from a bird and another from a human, those genes can mix and match to create a brand new virus that never existed before." That's what happened in 1957 when the 1918 flu, which is an H1N1 virus, swapped genes with another bird flu giving us the H2N2 pandemic, which claimed a million lives worldwide.



A man receives a shave from a barber wearing a mask during the ongoing flu pandemic, Chicago, Illinois, 1918. Chicago Sun-Times/ Chicago Daily News Collection/Chicago History Museum/Getty Images.

It happened again in 1968 with the creation of the so-called "Hong Kong Flu," an H3N2 virus that killed another million people. The socalled "Swine Flu" pandemic of 2009 has an even deeper backstory. When humans became infected with the 1918 pandemic flu, which was originally a bird flu, we also passed it on to pigs. "One branch of the 1918 flu permanently adapted to pigs and became swine influenza that was seen in pigs in the US every year after 1918 and spread around the world," says Taubenberger. In 2009, a strain of swine flu swapped genes with both human influenza and avian influenza to create a new variety of H1N1 flu that was "more like 1918 than had been seen in a long time," says Taubenberger. Around 300,000 people died from the 2009 flu pandemic.

All told, if 50 to 100 million people died in the 1918 and 1919 pandemic, and tens of millions more have died in the ensuing century of seasonal flus and pandemic outbreaks, then all of those deaths can be attributed to the single and accidental emergence in humans of the very successful and stubborn 1918 virus.

"We're still living in what I would call the '1918 pandemic era' 102 years later" says Taubenberger, "and I don't know how long it will last." (Courtesy history.com)