

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

KYLE FITZSIMONS,

Defendant.

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Case No. 21-cr-158 (RC)

**OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO REVOKE DETENTION ORDER AND  
FOR PRETRIAL RELEASE**

The United States of America, by and through its attorney, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, respectfully submits this opposition to the defendant, Kyle Fitzsimons, being released from pre-trial detention. In reviewing the detention order, *see* 18 U.S.C. § 3145(b), the Court should find that no conditions or combinations of conditions which can effectively ensure the defendant's appearance or the safety of any other person and the community, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e).

The government respectfully requests that the following points and authorities, as well as any other facts, arguments and authorities presented at the detention hearing, be considered in the Court's determination regarding pre-trial detention.

**BACKGROUND**

**1. PROCEDURAL POSTURE**

The defendant was arrested in Maine on February 4, 2021. He appeared before Magistrate Judge John H. Rich III on February 5, 2021. The defendant waived a detention hearing and preliminary hearing and asked that his hearings and further proceedings be held in the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia. Judge Rich issued a temporary order of detention and a commitment

to another district while the defendant was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals for transport to the District of Columbia. On April 6 and 7 a detention hearing was held, and Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey held the defendant finding that the defendant's release "would present a danger to the community and [the Court] would not feel confident that [the Court] could structure conditions of release that would fairly, reasonably, assure the safety of the community." See *United States v. Kyle Fitzsimons*, 21-CR-158 (RC)(oral ruling); see also Minute Entry, 21-CR-158 (4/7/2021 and 4/25/21).<sup>1</sup> Notably, an additional factor the court noted, in addition to the violent and assaultive nature of the defendant's conduct, was the defendant's lack of remorse in the aftermath of the events of January 6<sup>th</sup>. *Id.*

On February 26, 2021, an indictment was returned against the defendant charging him with following ten counts:

1. Obstruction of Law Enforcement During Civil Disorder (18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3)) (Sergeant A.G.) (5 year max);
2. Obstruction of Law Enforcement During Civil Disorder (18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3)) (Detective P.N.) (5 year max);
3. Obstruction of an Official Proceeding and Aiding and Abetting, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512(c)(2) and 2 (20 year max);
4. Inflicting Bodily Injury on Certain Officers (18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1), and (b)) (Sergeant A.G.) (20 year max);
5. Inflicting Bodily Injury on Certain Officers (18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1), and (b)) (Detective P.N.) (20 year max);
6. Entering or Remaining in any Restricted Building or Grounds (18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1)) (1 year max);
7. Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds (18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2)) (1 year max);
8. Engaging in Physical Violence in a Restricted Building or Grounds (18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(4)) (1 year max);
9. Disorderly Conduct on Capitol Grounds (40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D)) (6 month max)
10. Act of Physical Violence in the Capitol Grounds or Buildings (40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(F)) (6 month max).

See *United States v. Kyle Fitzsimons*, 21-CR-158 (RC), ECF No. 5. The defendant now seeks to

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<sup>1</sup> The transcript of Magistrate Judge Harvey's oral ruling on detention is appended to this motion as Exhibit 1 in support of the government's opposition motion.

be released from detention and placed on location monitoring and any other conditions deemed appropriate by the Court.

## 2. STATEMENT OF FACTS

### *The Attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021*

The government hereby proffers that, two months after the November 3, 2020 presidential election, on January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election. The joint session began at approximately 1:00 p.m., with then–Vice President Mike Pence presiding. By 1:30 p.m., the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate adjourned to separate chambers within the Capitol to resolve an objection raised in the joint session. Vice President Pence continued to preside in the Senate chamber.

As the House and Senate proceedings took place, a large crowd of protestors gathered outside the Capitol. “[T]emporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the . . . building, and U.S. Capitol Police were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.” Shortly after 2:00 p.m., a violent mob of rioters “forced entry” into the Capitol, and mayhem broke out inside the building, putting an hours-long halt to the electoral vote count while elected representatives, congressional staff, and members of the press hid from the mob. The joint session, and thus the constitutional ritual of confirming the results of the 2020 Presidential Election, “was effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m.”

### *The Defendant’s Actions at the U.S. Capitol*

On January 5, 2021 the defendant traveled from Lebanon, ME to Washington D.C and returned home on January 6, 2021. On January 7, 2021, after participating in the Capitol Riot, the

defendant called into a Town of Lebanon meeting, wherein he described his actions on January 6 to the town hall members.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, the defendant stated that after attending the rally at the Ellipse to watch then-President Trump speak, he went to a nearby parking garage to put on a white butcher's coat and unstrung bow before traveling to the U.S. Capitol building. As the defendant approached the U.S. Capitol building, he observed other rioters already involved in disorder, to include individuals climbing the building.

In addition to the defendant's own statements, his actions were also captured on surveillance and body-worn camera footage from January 6. At approximately 3:45 p.m. the defendant was present at the lower west terrace of the U.S. Capitol where a large crowd of rioters had already formed and were attempting to breach a police line formed inside the lower west terrace tunnel. Shortly thereafter the defendant moved to the front of the group of rioters, wearing the white butcher's coat over a dark blue sweater. The defendant's actions were captured on surveillance video (pictured below).<sup>3</sup>



*Exhibit 3*

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<sup>2</sup> The Town of Lebanon meeting was audio and video recorded. A copy of this recording has been appended to this motion as Exhibit 2 in support of the government's opposition motion.

<sup>3</sup> The surveillance footage pictured in Exhibits 3-6 also included video footage. A copy of the relevant portions of the video footage has been appended to this motion as Exhibit 7 in support of the government's opposition motion.

Once the defendant reached the police line the defendant was captured on surveillance reaching down and grabbing at officers as he entered the archway (pictured below).



*Exhibit 4*

After the defendant was struck by officers' batons, who were attempting to break the defendant's grip and avoid being pulled into the crowd of rioters, the defendant got up and moved towards the middle of the archway. The defendant then appeared to steel himself for additional violence, lowered his shoulder, and charged at the line of officers (pictured below).



*Exhibit 5*

The defendant simultaneously appeared on MPD body worn camera, where he was observed charging the police line and assaulting officers inside the lower west terrace tunnel (pictured below). After officers fought off the defendant he retreated back into the crowd.



*Exhibit 6*



*Exhibit 8*

During the course of the investigation the FBI was able to identify two of the officers the defendant assaulted captured in the surveillance video described above. Specifically, the defendant grabbed U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant A.G.'s left shoulder and was trying to pull Sergeant A.G. into the crowd. Sergeant A. G. slipped and fell while standing on three police shields that had been covered in pepper/mace spray. Sergeant A.G. had to strike the defendant with a baton several times to get free from his grip. Sergeant A.G. suffered a shoulder injury as a result of the defendant's assault. Additionally, the defendant assaulted Metropolitan Police Department Detective P.N.'s gas mask and pulled it to the side before another individual behind the defendant covered Detective P.N. in spray. Both officers identified the defendant in surveillance footage as the individual who assaulted them.

*The Defendant's Actions Before and After the Assaults on the Lower West Terrace*

During the course of the investigation law enforcement were directed to the "Lebanon Maine Truth Seekers" Facebook page in which a message posted on December 24, 2020 contained the following messages:

“I’m also seeing flags that this election was stolen and we are being slow walked towards Chinese ownership by an establishment that is treasonous and all too willing to gaslight the public into believing the theft was somehow the will of the people.”

“Would there be an interest locally an organizing a caravan to Washington DC for the Electoral College cote count on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021? I am arranging the time off and will be a driver if anyone wishes to hitch a ride, or a lead for a caravan of vehicles. If a call went out for able bodies, would there be an answer?”

The Facebook message was signed with the defendant’s first and last name and included a Gmail address also containing his first and last name.

The day after the riots, as described above, the defendant called into a Town of Lebanon meeting. The defendant stated that he believes that Trump is a lion leading an “army of lambs through lawfare.” After Trump’s speech, the defendant stated he went to an unknown parking garage to put on a costume which consisted of butcher’s jacket and an unstrung bow. The defendant stated that if it were the last day of the republic, he wanted to live it like he did every day. The defendant further stated he was near a group of individuals near a police line that was protecting a doorway and anyone “sucked in” to the crowd was pushed into the police line and were subjected to force.

Roughly four days later the defendant was interviewed by the Rochester Voice about his experience at the U.S. Capitol during the course of the riot. The article included pictures taken by the defendant at the riot, as well as photos from news coverage that day, which documented his travel up towards the Capitol building (pictured below). Notably, the photos contained in this article depict the defendant wearing the same clothing he is pictured wearing in surveillance footage of the lower west terrace tunnel.





*Exhibit 9*



*Exhibit 10*

In the Rochester Voice article, the defendant is also quoted as saying:

“[t]he speeches from the morning were overtly preaching the election was not over, there was a path to victory through decertification, there was a plan to delay the certification by the House and Senate and then state legislatures would convene and (certify) the right result.” Moreover, the defendant provided that the crowd at the Ellipse was asked by President Trump to walk to the Capitol to “give

our Republicans, the weak ones ... the kind of pride and boldness that they need to take back our country.”

As law enforcement continued to investigate the defendant, information was obtained that the defendant made several calls to a Congressional office representing his district, stating the following:

- On March 19, 2020, the defendant called-in, demanding the number for Chinese President, Xi Jinping. The defendant said that he wanted to start a war with China and if the individual answering the phone didn't give him the number, he was going to go out on the street and start talking to the Chinese people he saw. He said many times that he wanted to start a war and when the staffer asked him for a name, he said “This is Kyle Fitzsimons, the man who wants to start a war.” The defendant's tone was noted to be very aggressive and angry.
- On December 17, 2020, the defendant called-in and stated that he was against impeachment. He was reported to be very aggressive, shouting and yelling. The defendant said that he was going to "give it to her hard" and that "we're coming for her" (referring to the Congressperson).
- On December 18, 2020, the defendant stated that the electoral college vote is corrupt and total garbage. He urged the Congressperson to dispute the election results in January. He stated that Biden is a corrupt skeleton and that this is going to be Civil War.

Additionally, the defendant left a voicemail for a member of Congress stating “[. . .] I am a constituent of Maine. My name is Kyle Fitzsimons, I live at [redacted]. I am asking for your courage, sir, courage to dispute what we all know is a garbage election. Will you have the courage to object on January 6<sup>th</sup>, because I certainly have the courage to object to my entire life going forward if this is done to me. My name is Kyle Fitzsimons, and I'll be in D.C. on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy your day.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The audio recording of this voicemail is appended to this motion as Exhibit 11 in support of the government's opposition motion.

## ARGUMENT

The defendant is eligible for detention pursuant to § 3142(f)(1)(A) [Crime of Violence] and § 3142(e) [Risk of Flight] of the federal bail statute. Under the Bail Reform Act (“BRA”), 18 U.S.C. §§ 3141–3156, “Congress limited pretrial detention of persons who are presumed innocent to a subset of defendants charged with crimes that are ‘the most serious’ compared to other federal offenses.” *United States v. Singleton*, 182 F.3d 7, 13 (D.C. Cir. 1999) (quoting *United States v. Salerno*, 481 U.S. 739, 747 (1987)). The BRA “requires that detention be supported by ‘clear and convincing evidence’ when the justification is the safety of the community.” *United States v. Simpkins*, 826 F.2d 94, 96 (D.C. Cir. 1987). Even if the defendant does not pose a flight risk, danger to the community alone is sufficient reason to order pretrial detention. *Salerno*, 481 U.S. at 755. The defendant seeks review of Magistrate Judge Harvey’s detention order by filing a motion to revoke the order or amend the conditions of release. 18 U.S.C. § 3145(b). This Court’s review of the magistrate judge’s order is “de novo” to determine whether any “condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of any other person and the community.” 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e). At a detention hearing, the government may present evidence by way of a proffer. *United States v. Smith*, 79 F.3d 1208, 1209-10 (D.C. Cir. 1996).

To determine whether conditions exist that will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of any person in the community, the judicial officer shall consider four factors: (1) “the nature and the circumstances of the offense charged,” (2) “the weight of the evidence against the person,” (3) “the history and characteristics of the person,” and (4) “the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed by the person’s release.” 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(1)-(4). ”). Additionally, the Court has articulated several

“guideposts” useful for assessing “the comparative culpability of a given defendant in relation to fellow rioters.” *See United States v. Chestman*, 21-mj-218 (BAH), ECF No. 23, at \*13, 16 (D.D.C. February 26, 2021); see also *See United States v. Jeffrey Sabol*, 2021 WL 1405945 (Memorandum Opinion issued by Judge Emmet G. Sullivan). These guideposts included (1) whether the defendant has been charged with felony or misdemeanor offenses; (2) the extent of the defendant’s prior planning; (3) whether the defendant used or carried a dangerous weapon; (4) evidence of coordination with other protestors before, during, or after the riot; (5) whether the defendant played a leadership role in the events of January 6, 2021, and; (6) the defendant’s “words and movements during the riot” –*e.g.*, whether the defendant “remained only on the grounds surrounding the Capitol” or stormed into the Capitol interior, or whether the defendant “injured, attempted to injure, or threatened to injure others.” *Id.* at 7-8.

In consideration of these factors, the government respectfully submits that there remain no conditions or combinations of conditions which can effectively ensure the safety of any other person and the community or the appearance of the defendant, as required.

(1) *The Nature and Circumstances of the Offense Charged:*

To start, the gravity of the conduct that occurred on the U.S. Capitol writ large is an issue that has been addressed by this Court when determining whether pretrial detention is appropriate. *See Sabol*, 2021 WL 1405945 at 8. In *Sabol*, the court quotes *United States v. Cua*, No. 21-107 (RDM), 2021 WL 918255, where Judge Moss stated “[The defendant] and hundreds of others took over the United States Capitol; caused the Vice President of the United States, the Congress, and their staffs to flee the Senate and House Chambers; engaged in violent attacks on law enforcement officers charged with protecting the Capitol; and delayed the solemn process of certifying a presidential election. This was a singular and chilling event in U.S. history, raising legitimate

concern about the security – not only of the Capitol building—but of our democracy itself.” While the Court must consider the specific offenses for which each defendant is charged and the conduct underlying those offenses, the government believes that this is an appropriate starting place for the Court when assessing the defendant’s actions on January 6. *See Sabol*, 2021 WL 1405945 at 8.

Here, the defendant has been charged with grave offenses. He forcibly entered and remained on the Capitol grounds and sought to stop, delay, and hinder Congress’s certification of the Electoral College vote. He was at the front of the crowd in the Lower West Terrace tunnel and engaged directly with officers by pulling them by the body parts, including the shoulder, in attempt to pull them into the crowd. Not hindered by the batons meant to prevent further violence on the defendant’s part, he pulled the gas mask off another officer, which was then followed by another individual spraying the officer in the face. He persisted in his violence and was unhindered by the line formed at the tunnel meant to protect the Capitol building from the rioters.

As made clear in the Facebook post on the Lebanon Truth seekers page, once a call “went out for able bodies” to march to the Capitol, the defendant answered with violence, force and aggression. Following up on his threatening calls made to the Congressional office on December 17-18, 2020, in which he stated he was going to “give it to her hard” (referring to the Congressperson), stating that the fraudulent election was going to result in a Civil War, and the voicemail where the defendant states he “has the courage to object to his whole life if [the election results are certified] is done to [him],” the defendant prepared himself for a battle both in apparel (butcher coat, rubber boots and apron, unstrung bow) and in his actions that day. The defendant made clear his disgust for the election and was acting on the threats by use of violence and force. Such conduct poses a clear risk to the community. As stated by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell, “[t]he actions of this violent mob, particularly those members who breached police lines and

gained entry to the Capitol, are reprehensible as offenses against morality, civic virtue, and the rule of law.” See *United States v. Chestman*, 21-mj-218 (BAH), ECF No. 23, at \*13, 16 (D.D.C. February 26, 2021) (“Grave concerns are implicated if a defendant actively threatened or confronted federal officials or law enforcement, or otherwise promoted or celebrated efforts to disrupt the certification

Here, as stated above, the defendant attempted to breach the police lines, but due to the heroic efforts of law enforcement to consistently push him back, thankfully failed. Notably, the defendant’s actions satisfy several of the guideposts delineated in *Chrestman* with respect to the defendant’s comparative culpability, to include among others, felony charges, attempting to storm the Capitol, and injuring others. For those reasons, the nature and circumstances of the charged offenses strongly support a finding that no conditions of release would protect the community. Additionally, someone who demonstrates such contempt from the rule of law cannot reasonably assure future court appearances.

(2) *The Weight of Evidence Against the Person:*

The second factor to be considered, the weight of the evidence, also clearly weighs in favor of detention. Substantial evidence supports the position that the defendant poses a threat to the community. The defendant’s violent actions at the Capitol were captured on film, both through body worn camera footage and Capitol building surveillance. The defendant’s statements on the Facebook Lebanon Truth Seekers page and through calls to the Congressional office catalogued that his intentions in Washington, D.C. were not harmless or “peaceful” as he later recounted to the Rochester Voice, but instead filled with aggression and anger. The defendant then confirmed his presence at the Capitol by providing an interview to the Rochester Voice, as well as pictures taken from his phone documenting his travel up towards the Capitol building. Moreover, the

defendant has been identified by several witnesses personally familiar with him in several pieces of evidence in the government's case. The weight of the evidence thus strongly supports a finding that no conditions of release would protect the community.

*(3) History and Characteristics of the Person:*

The United States adopts the factual proffer related to the defendant's history and characteristics in the February 10, 2021 pretrial services report generated by Jennifer Metcalfe, United States Probation Officer in Maine. Given the defendant's unemployment, his prior conviction in 2008 for driving under the influence and 2016 conviction for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, he presents a high risk of non-compliance with any conditions, a significant danger to the community, and a flight risk. Ms. Metcalfe's assessment is that due to the defendant's risk of danger, which is due to the instant offense, and due to the defendant being unwilling to be interviewed, there is no information to mitigate the risk of danger, and therefore no condition or combination of conditions that would reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community.

In addition, one of the circumstances the court can consider when making a release decision is the support network the defendant will or will not have available to him upon release. As stated in the government's previous filing, it is the government's understanding that the defendant will not have the support of his wife if he were to be released. The government understands the representations made by the defense concerning the defendant's mother being willing to take the defendant into her home, however it appears that the defendant's participation in political activity prior to the Capitol riots has had a similarly negative impact on his personal life yet was not enough of a limiting factor to dissuade him from the actions that led to his current detention. For all of these reasons, the government submits that no condition or combination of conditions exist that

would reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community.

(4) Nature and Seriousness of the Danger to Community

The fourth factor, the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community posed by a defendant's release, also weighs in favor of the defendant's detention. The defendant's words and actions evince a serious threat to the community. Per *Chrestman*, grave concerns are implicated if a defendant actively threatened or confronted federal officials or law enforcement, or otherwise promoted or celebrated efforts to disrupt the certification of the electoral vote count during the riot, thereby encouraging others to engage in such conduct. 21-mj-218, at \*13. On several occasions, the defendant was seen engaging in acts of violence. If he were successful in pulling Sergeant A.G. from the tunnel, he would have put Sergeant A.G. in serious danger, as several other officers pulled into the crowd were severely beaten that day. See *Chrestman*, at \*30 ("Nearly as significant is defendant's use of force to advance towards the Capitol and his use of words to lead and guide the mob in obstructing the police and pushing against police barriers"). He then pushed aside Detective P.N.'s gas mask, allowing chemical irritants to affect him. These factors measure the extent of a defendant's disregard for the institutions of government and the rule of law, qualities that bear on both the seriousness of the offense conduct and the ultimate inquiry of whether a defendant will comply with conditions of release meant to ensure the safety of the community.

Second, after the events, the defendant recounted the events by giving an interview in a local newspaper and calling into this town's meeting, expressing no remorse for what he did and downplaying his violence and intentions at the Capitol. All of the release conditions available to the Court depend-at least in part-on voluntary compliance. Accordingly, the potential danger the



defendant poses to the community strongly supports a finding that no conditions of release would protect the community.

### CONCLUSION

The defendant came to the U.S. Capitol ready to “object to [his] entire life if [the 2020 Presidential Election results were certified].” The defendant made these views known well before January 6, 2021 and continued to espouse those views well after the Capitol Riots, despite massive media coverage condemning the rioter’s actions. Finally, the defendant assaulted two separate officers in an incredibly violent and chaotic manner, at a point when officers were quite literally fighting for their lives. Pretrial detention is necessary in this case to ensure the safety of people and the community, and the appearance of the defendant as required. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f). There is clear and convincing evidence that the defendant would pose a danger to the community if released, and that there are no release conditions or combination of conditions that would ensure the safety of the community. There is probable cause that the defendant would be a flight risk and would not appear at trial as required.

Respectfully submitted,

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS  
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

/s/ Brandon K. Regan  
BRANDON REGAN  
Assistant United States Attorney  
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia  
555 4th Street, N.W.  
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### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the Government’s Memorandum in Support of Pretrial Detention was served on counsel of record via the Court’s electronic filing service.

/s/ Brandon K. Regan  
BRANDON REGAN  
Assistant United States Attorney

Date: September 9, 2021

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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3 United States of America, ) Criminal  
4 ) No. 1:21-cr-00158-KBJ  
5 Plaintiff, )  
6 vs. ) **Detention Hearing,**  
7 ) **continued**  
8 )  
9 Kyle Fitzsimons, ) Washington, D.C.  
10 ) April 7, 2021  
11 Defendant. ) Time: 3:25 p.m.

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12 Transcript of **Detention Hearing, continued**  
13 Held Before  
14 The Honorable Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey  
15 United States Magistrate Judge

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16 A P P E A R A N C E S

17 For the Plaintiff: **Brandon K. Regan**  
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For the Defendant: **Gregory T. Hunter**  
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**Joel W. Anders**  
1750 K Street, Northwest, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Also Present: **John Copes**, Pretrial Services Agency

Proceedings reported by FTR Gold Electronic Recording Software.

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Transcribing Stenographic Court Reporter:  
Nancy J. Meyer  
Registered Diplomate Reporter  
Certified Realtime Reporter  
United States Courthouse, Room 6509  
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Washington, D.C. 20001  
202-354-3118

P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: This is Case 21-cr-158,  
3 United States of America v. Kyle Fitzsimons. This is scheduled  
4 to be a continued detention hearing held by video.

5 Will the parties please introduce themselves to the  
6 Court, beginning with the government.

7 MS. BHATIA: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Puja Bhatia  
8 for the United States, appearing via video Zoom.

9 MR. REGAN: And Brandon Regan appearing via video  
10 Zoom as well.

11 THE PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER: Your Honor, John  
12 Copes, pretrial services.

13 MR. HUNTER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Greg Hunter  
14 appearing on behalf of the defendant who is, again, present by  
15 video and -- and at our express consent.

16 MR. ANDERS: And good afternoon, Your Honor. Joel  
17 Anders, co-defense counsel, appearing by telephone.

18 THE COURT: Mr. Fitzsimons, can you hear me? I just  
19 want to make sure your audio is working.

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor, it is. Good  
21 afternoon.

22 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

23 So we're here for a continued detention hearing. I did  
24 request that the government provide both the Court and the  
25 defense with the videos that they made reference to yesterday.

1 We -- we had seen screenshots up and to that point, and I have  
2 been provided with what appears to me to be a -- a fixed  
3 Capitol surveillance camera video and a second video which  
4 appears to me to be the body-worn camera of one of the officers  
5 who were in the police line that day. I reviewed both of  
6 those.

7 And I also received video -- it was about an hour and a  
8 half long. I watched about 15 minutes, when Mr. Fitzsimons was  
9 talking. It appears to be a video, as I understand it, of a  
10 meeting of the Lebanon town meeting. So I think it's the -- a  
11 town that -- where he lives or is associated with, and they  
12 were having a town meeting. The video was marked January 7th.  
13 I don't know the precise date. But it's clear from  
14 Mr. Fitzsimons' comments on the video it was soon after the  
15 events at the Capitol. So I've seen all those.

16 Mr. Hunter, I hope you have too. I want to confirm that  
17 you have and I want to hear if you want to make any argument  
18 based on what you saw. I want to give you the opportunity to  
19 do that.

20 MR. HUNTER: Your Honor, I -- I have received them,  
21 and I -- I thank counsel for the government for making those --  
22 those possible and for helping me with the -- with the IT  
23 issues of -- of getting them to me. They really are doing --  
24 doing a heck of a job here making all of this possible.

25 Honestly, having seen the videos, Your Honor, it's --

1 it's -- it's clear from the -- both the fixed camera angle  
2 video and the body cam video that Mr. Simons is present --  
3 Mr. Fitzsimons is present and he's at the front of a crowd and  
4 he finds himself between the police and -- and the front of the  
5 crowd.

6 And as he's reaching his hands out to steady himself as  
7 he's being pushed from behind, is he slipping on the -- the --  
8 the same police shields that -- that are, you know, on the  
9 ground and -- and that the police fell on? Or is he reaching  
10 at a police officer to -- to grab their -- their gas mask or  
11 their shoulder?

12 You know, he -- he -- at one point he beat feets out of  
13 there. You know, he's been -- and we -- we know now that he's  
14 been -- been clipped pretty good over the head and -- and blood  
15 all over and that's why the -- the blood on the jacket, but as  
16 far as showing any -- any intent, I -- I don't know if audio  
17 would -- would be helpful. I don't know if there are other  
18 camera angles that show more, but that -- that's a -- that's an  
19 awful lot of intent to -- to read into -- into what we've been  
20 presented by the government.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Government, any response? Do you  
22 want to make any response?

23 MS. BHATIA: Yes, Your Honor. And I think Your Honor  
24 mentioned the body-worn camera video, the CCTV footage, the  
25 town of Lebanon meeting. And I also provided the voice mail

1 that was left on, I believe, Congressman Golden's voice mail on  
2 December 20th, 2020.

3 THE COURT: I did receive it and I have heard it.

4 Mr. Hunter, have you heard that too? I want to make  
5 sure --

6 MR. HUNTER: I -- I had actually heard that some time  
7 ago, Your Honor. And if -- if you want to argue about it, I --  
8 he certainly sounds angry, but he's asking his congressman to  
9 do the same thing that, what, 170 members of the GOP conference  
10 and 49 senators did and -- and, you know, vote to -- to try and  
11 overturn the election. He -- he's angry, but he's -- he's not  
12 doing anything in that phone call that -- that, you know,  
13 almost half of Congress did.

14 MS. BHATIA: So, Your Honor, just to clarify some of  
15 the statements, some of the representations that Mr. Hunter  
16 made about the video.

17 So Mr. Hunter said, you know, it's unclear whether  
18 Mr. Fitzsimons is really steady himself on the slippery riot  
19 shields or whether he's actually reaching -- reaching for the  
20 officer's gas mask. I just want to make very clear for the  
21 record -- and I also want to clarify for my own purposes  
22 because I may have switched some of the timelines. So I just  
23 want to be very clear as to the sequence of events.

24 But on the -- on the body-worn camera that we see from  
25 the officer, Mr. Fitzsimons actually starts with reaching for



1 an officer in the high visibility jackets, the -- the green  
2 jackets. That's Detective P.N. And at that point is when, a  
3 few seconds later, I believe, at 16:11:35, he's beaten down by  
4 a baton. And then you see Sergeant A.G., who's down on the  
5 ground, with Mr. Fitzsimons' hand still on his arm.

6 So I just want to be extremely clear that Mr. Fitzsimons  
7 is not trying to steady himself on these shields. He is  
8 purposefully reaching back into the tunnel, grabbing at the  
9 officers, undeterred from any strikes that he receives, in an  
10 attempt to continue to violently hurt the officers. He then,  
11 after all of that, steadies himself and then reappears in the  
12 middle of the tunnel, which we see both on the CCTV footage as  
13 well as on the body-worn camera.

14 He positions himself right in the middle of the tunnel  
15 after all that activity happens on the left side of the tunnel  
16 and then charges at the officers -- and I think the time stamp  
17 on the body-worn camera is 16:12:40 -- and pushes against them  
18 by lowering his head and pushing through -- through the line of  
19 officers with his shoulder.

20 This is not an act of a person who is trying to steady  
21 himself. This is an act of a person who is relentless in  
22 trying to break a police line and continue his violence and who  
23 is undeterred by any of these -- these actions.

24 And, again, a lot of that is repeated through the CCTV  
25 footage that we see from a slightly higher angle. And, in

1 fact, what we see at the end of the CCTV footage -- I think  
2 it's right around 1:46 -- is that when he charges with his head  
3 and his body down, right before he's seen exiting out of the  
4 tunnel, he's wildly throwing his arms up and down at the  
5 officers all around before he finally exits the tunnel at  
6 around 1:51 on that CCTV footage. Therefore, even more  
7 evidence.

8 Now, Mr. Fitzsimons was not simply trying to steady  
9 himself or trying to get people off of him. He was trying to  
10 exert as much violence, as much aggression as he could before  
11 he was finally, essentially, kicked out of the tunnel or chose  
12 to give up at that point and exit the -- the tunnel.

13 And, again, I think the actions -- I think his words  
14 speak very clearly. Mr. Hunter thinks that this is sort of  
15 dissatisfaction that Mr. Fitzsimons was exhibiting in the  
16 comments that he made on the voice mail. But I will say,  
17 saying that, you know, I have the courage to object to my  
18 entire life going forward if this is done to me is more than  
19 just a constituent who's unhappy with election results. It's  
20 certainly the words of an individual who is really, really  
21 willing to more than show his dissatisfaction, willing to come  
22 down to D.C., and willing to basically do whatever is  
23 necessary. As he said before, this is going to be civil war.  
24 And he's made his intention clear.

25 And then when he recounts the events at the town of

1 Lebanon meeting -- I don't want to obviously reiterate the  
2 statements that I mentioned at yesterday's detention hearing,  
3 but, again, you know, I -- even though he talks about this  
4 being a peaceful revolution, he, again, talks about a lion  
5 leading an army of lambs. I mean, all of these words that were  
6 used continuously throughout different medias, whether it's  
7 public hearings, whether it's calling into the town of Lebanon  
8 meeting, whether it's through the *Rochester Voice*, it's very  
9 clear that Mr. Fitzsimons wanted to not just disrupt the  
10 election certification but was going to do so at any means  
11 necessary.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Anything further,  
13 Mr. Hunter?

14 MR. HUNTER: The -- Your Honor, there -- there were  
15 two things yesterday that we talked about, the words of the  
16 defendant's wife and -- and the -- the pretrial services report  
17 from Maine that I wanted to address. I didn't know if you  
18 wanted to do that --

19 (Indiscernible simultaneous cross-talk.)

20 THE COURT: Under the rules, now is your time. If  
21 you want to make a record, do it.

22 MR. HUNTER: I'm making the record.

23 The -- the government makes some allegations about  
24 the -- the defendant not having a family support network and  
25 uses evidence of that as a text message from the defendant's

1 wife. And they misstate what it says, first of all. And --  
2 and I'm -- I'm -- I'm troubled -- I know it's their job to read  
3 through all the messages, but it's -- it's snooping on a  
4 marital conversation. And then you -- you're using the  
5 statement where the wife says: If you don't make a change  
6 after this trip, we're going to have problems and maybe you and  
7 your daughter and -- and me are -- are going to be split up.

8 But that's -- you know, I -- I don't know anybody else's  
9 marital status, but I -- I can't imagine having -- thinking it  
10 would be fair in my life to have something from an argument  
11 with my wife from three months ago being held up as -- as the  
12 measure of our relationship status now.

13 As I said, Your Honor, we have other relatives happy to  
14 act as -- as third-party custodians in multiple court districts  
15 to hold them. As to the main pretrial services report, it --  
16 it says that he declined to be interviewed. That's absolutely  
17 true; and he declined to have his detention hearing at that  
18 time. And the reason being is for the exact thing that the  
19 United States Attorney's Office says that they need this extra  
20 time to -- to -- to prepare and -- and think about all these  
21 cases for.

22 The advice to him from the -- the federal public  
23 defender in Maine was have your one shot at detention in  
24 Washington. Let the marshals service transport you to  
25 Washington and foot the bill for that. But also every day that

1 goes by, the -- the decisions are going to be made more likely  
2 from a position of -- of sober reflection and -- and not simply  
3 from -- from the immediate aftermath anger. And he didn't know  
4 he'd be waiting 63 days to get the hearing, but that was a  
5 decision he made. And, quite frankly, Your Honor, that --  
6 that's advice that I would give to any client in that same  
7 situation.

8 So to -- to say that he -- he shouldn't get any support  
9 from pretrial services because he -- he declined an interview  
10 and -- and a detention hearing in Maine 63 days ago, I -- I  
11 think, does a -- a disservice to him and -- and the -- the  
12 actually smart legal advice that he got to -- to wait until he  
13 was in this court and -- and give the government and -- and the  
14 court a -- a chance to consider these cases from -- from sober  
15 reflective positions, which, you know, the court in Maine  
16 didn't have Chief Judge Howell's memorandum opinion in -- in  
17 *Chrestman* at the time.

18 We -- we didn't have the benefit of -- of literally  
19 hundreds of other cases being -- being brought forth to -- to  
20 have an idea of -- of -- of what the most guilty -- most  
21 culpable people are accused of doing and what the least  
22 culpable people are accused of doing.

23 So I would -- would simply ask Your Honor that he -- he  
24 be given the -- the chance as though he was just arrested the  
25 other day and -- and, you know, without incident, without

1 evasion, not a member of a group like the Proud Boys, not  
2 someone that there's any -- any evidence of or allegation that  
3 he coordinated ahead of time or -- or assumed a position of  
4 leadership or possessed a weapon.

5 And -- and with that, Your Honor, I think that he's --  
6 he's a good candidate for pretrial release.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Well, thank you for all that. And  
8 thank you for the presentation from both sides in this case. I  
9 think it's been very good.

10 Mr. Fitzsimons, let me just start with the points that  
11 your -- your -- your attorney made on your behalf, and he's  
12 done an excellent job on your behalf to make all of his  
13 points -- all of your points. But I want to just say a few  
14 things before I forget them.

15 You know, the -- the lack of responding to pretrial,  
16 I -- that doesn't enter my calculus at all. I do see that  
17 time to time in cases based on advice of counsel that a  
18 defendant makes that choice. So I -- I don't take anything  
19 from that. You're not, in my book, required to say anything to  
20 pretrial if you don't wish to. And I'm not going to hold it  
21 against you if you made that choice, especially on the advice  
22 of counsel.

23 I actually think you received very good counsel by the  
24 Maine federal public defender, if that's what they told you, to  
25 wait 60 -- well, you probably didn't -- they didn't tell you to

1 wait 60 days; and that's unfortunate how long it took you to  
2 get here. And those are just issues outside of the Court's  
3 control. I -- the marshals service during the pandemic has  
4 been struggling widely -- and even more so when we talk about  
5 so many cases involved in this event, January 6th, at the  
6 Capitol -- to get everyone here promptly. And they -- they  
7 have not. They just cannot get the defendants here promptly,  
8 and you know that better than anyone.

9 But, still, the advice was good. The advice was good to  
10 take some time, let the evidence develop, allow for civil  
11 reflection, as Mr. Hunter's just indicated, allow for perhaps a  
12 few more people to -- to proceed to these detention hearings  
13 before you so the Court can start to draw some lines as to who  
14 may be held, who's -- and who should not be held in this case.  
15 And we -- we have done -- we've done that.

16 Chief Judge Howell has listed -- has issued her  
17 *Chrestman* opinion. Other district judges have as well. We  
18 also recently had guidance from the circuit in the *Munchel*  
19 decision. I'll talk about that, you know, decision here in a  
20 moment.

21 But -- and -- and I also -- I've taken into  
22 consideration all that Mr. Hunter has said, all the positive  
23 attributes and the -- the distinguishing characteristics that  
24 you have that does look different from some defendants who have  
25 been held. You know, you don't have -- you effectively have no

1 criminal record. I think there's an unregistered vehicle issue  
2 there, a DWI many number of years ago.

3 Effectively no criminal record that's going to impact on  
4 my decision today, and it doesn't. Nothing that I've seen in  
5 your record impacts my detention decision here today. So you  
6 effectively have no criminal record. You have no evidence of,  
7 you know, failing to comply with conditions in the past.

8 With respect to January 6th, I think Mr. Hunter is  
9 correct that you -- you know, you're not charged with using or  
10 possessing a weapon. I don't consider your unstrung bow to be  
11 a weapon. Symbolic in some way. I don't understand the  
12 symbolism, I must tell you. In any event, I'm confident that  
13 it was -- it was not being used or possessed as a weapon that  
14 day.

15 You're not a member, to the Court's knowledge -- and the  
16 government's presented no evidence -- of some -- one of these  
17 more radical antigovernment militia groups, the Three  
18 Percenters, the Oath Keepers, et cetera.

19 No real evidence that I can see of planning with respect  
20 to violence that day. Certainly planning to be there, planning  
21 to protest, a few statements that you made that are open to  
22 interpretation, but not like what we've seen in other cases  
23 where the courts have emphasized that as being an issue.

24 People who've come with, you know, tactical equipment,  
25 came to the Capitol with weapons, people for whom the



1 government does have clear evidence of, you know, calls to arms  
2 and planning in anticipation of some sort of violence at the  
3 Capitol. I don't -- I don't see that here. And so I -- I  
4 think that is, you know -- is in your favor. And as has been  
5 pointed out to courts, those are some of the things that we,  
6 you know, should be considering.

7 Also not listed is that you destroyed evidence, that you  
8 tried to evade arrest. I mean, I'll tell you right now, I  
9 don't think you're a -- a risk of flight. The government has  
10 not really argued -- not strongly -- that you were, but I  
11 certainly don't think there's any basis on what I've seen that  
12 you're a risk of flight, and I -- I credit Mr. Hunter that  
13 you've got family members who'd be willing to -- to take you  
14 in, if -- perhaps your wife, and if not your wife, someone  
15 else. So, I mean, I considered all of that.

16 But there's another side to the coin as well. And none  
17 of the things that I have said and the cases that have said  
18 that we should look at those factors have said that those are  
19 the only factors that we should look at, or somehow that that's  
20 a floor for detention; that -- that Chrestman and what he did  
21 is -- is -- is the floor for detention.

22 Chief Judge Howell is very clear that these were just  
23 factors that we should consider in any given case. There might  
24 be other factors to consider or some factors that we may  
25 consider more than others. It all just depends. The *Munchel*

1 decision came out from the circuit recently and also gave  
2 additional guidance. *Munchel* and Chief Judge Howell and the  
3 other judges that I can -- I'm aware that their decisions have  
4 all had one class of case where it's been pretty consistent  
5 with respect to detention decisions.

6 And unfortunately, sir, you fall within it, in my  
7 judgment. Those are individuals who were -- did engage in  
8 forcible assault, you know, forcible entry into the Capitol and  
9 physical assaults on law enforcement; a factor which  
10 Judge Howell said is of grave concern and would -- would  
11 mitigate strongly in favor of detention. In the *Munchel* case  
12 before the -- the circuit, again, all three judges -- there's  
13 some dispute among the judges as to exactly how that -- the  
14 method for resolving that case, but all three judges, I think,  
15 also distinguished between what Mr. Munchel did and those who  
16 were engaged in violence that day; Mr. Munchel and, I believe  
17 it was, his mother.

18 You know, he did come with tactical equipment. He had a  
19 TASER, but he didn't use it. For all of his bravado, he didn't  
20 do anything. He walked through the Capitol for 12 minutes and  
21 left. No one was assaulted. There's no forcible entry. No  
22 property was destroyed. And all of the judges in the *Munchel*  
23 case indicated that that's a different class of case. Those  
24 individuals who's -- the *Munchel* court acknowledged who  
25 would -- who would use violence to promote their beliefs are

1 of -- were a concern to those judges and concern to every other  
2 judge on this court.

3 I have considered these other decisions, other district  
4 court decisions. I've looked at the one cited by Mr. Hunter.  
5 I think I can fairly distinguish the Griffin case, the Couy  
6 Griffin case, the Powell case. Griffin case, there again,  
7 there was no assault. There was no forcible entry, no property  
8 damage. He certainly was inciting people, had some threatening  
9 language, which was of concern, but, nevertheless, he was  
10 released.

11 Ms. Powell, she did breach a window and used, like,  
12 something that looked like a battering ram to do it, but she  
13 didn't physically assault anyone.

14 I know of two cases where police officers were assaulted  
15 and those defendants were granted release. There might be  
16 others. It's hard to keep track of all of them. I do have a  
17 tracker trying to stay up to speed as to what other judges are  
18 doing. It's very important to me that individuals who are  
19 engaged in similar conduct -- conduct are treated similarly,  
20 especially with respect to a decision as important as this one,  
21 detention, which is -- impacts the defendant's liberty. I  
22 think we have to. The challenge for the judges on this court  
23 is to be consistent. So that's why I've looked at all of these  
24 cases.

25 The two cases that I know of where the individuals

1 assaulted police officers, as you've been charged with doing,  
2 and were released, I think, are different too from this case.  
3 There was a Mr. Leffingwell. He was one of the first people  
4 who came in front of me. He apparently did punch a police  
5 officer, was inside the Capitol, was not trying to forcibly  
6 enter into one of the entrances of the Capitol. And as soon as  
7 he punched the police officer, he turned and apologized. He  
8 was also a veteran who had some brain injury as a result of his  
9 service. There was suggestion of some sort of diminished  
10 capacity.

11 There was also Emanuel Johnson or Jackson. I always  
12 forget his last name. I actually held him. What he did sounds  
13 a lot like what the government alleges you did. That he twice  
14 attacked -- might have been the -- the lower west Terrence --  
15 lower west terrace entrance too. I don't know. One of those  
16 entrances -- entrances with the archway. He attacked once with  
17 his fist and, like, I don't know, an hour or few hours later he  
18 came back and attacked again, this time with a baseball bat.  
19 That concerned me greatly. I -- I -- I held the man, the --

20 Judge Howell reversed me and released him, but because  
21 he had mental health issues and an intellectual disability,  
22 which she found he had diminished capacity, I guess, would be  
23 the best way to characterize it that day.

24 And it's -- I've not seen any evidence of that with  
25 respect to you. We'll talk about your passionate beliefs in a

1 few minutes, but I'm not seeing evidence of diminished  
2 capacity, not in a way that I think would be recognized by the  
3 law.

4 So I do think you fall into a class of cases which  
5 the -- this court has detained individuals, individuals  
6 involved at the Capitol, who were engaged in violent assaults  
7 on law enforcement. That's not the only basis of which  
8 I -- I -- I rest my decision. I am going to -- to hold you in  
9 this case, but it is certainly a very significant one and one  
10 that I think puts you in -- as acknowledged by the circuit and,  
11 I think, by Chief Judge Howell -- puts you in -- in a different  
12 class, and a class which indicates to me, at the very least,  
13 you do represent a danger to the community were you to be  
14 released.

15 I did review the video, and I heard first -- I must tell  
16 you, I heard first the statement that you made to the Lebanon  
17 town meeting. So I heard your description first. I wanted to  
18 do that. I wanted to hear, you know, your view of it, and then  
19 I watched.

20 Sir, I did not see what you described. I understand  
21 that I'm not the jury in this case. I'm not even going to be  
22 the judge who's going to handle this case after today. So  
23 ultimately this is just how I view the evidence. You have the  
24 presumption of innocence, and you will have Mr. Hunter by your  
25 side, if you choose to go to trial, to attempt to show frame by

1 frame what -- what happened there that day; but I did view it,  
2 and I viewed the videos a few times.

3 I did not see someone who was being pushed by the crowd  
4 into the police, which is, you know, my interpretation at the  
5 very least of what you were suggesting to the Lebanon town  
6 meeting. You indicated that you were sort of sucked into the  
7 crowd, you cycled through to the front, you received a beating,  
8 and you left.

9 One of those things is true. You did receive a beating.  
10 I did see that, but what was interest -- significant to me is  
11 that you -- before that, what appeared to me is that you, you  
12 know, lunged for the officer, you grabbed him, you pulled him,  
13 and then when he did hit you with your [sic] baton any number  
14 of times, you went to the ground, you got up, and you went  
15 right back. You lunged in again.

16 I saw -- you know, I -- I saw hits. I saw, you know,  
17 pulls. I saw you -- you lunging your shoulder into the -- into  
18 the -- the police line. I saw aggressive, violent assaults  
19 which, you know, unless my eyes are not to believe what it's  
20 seeing, were voluntary movements made by you that day -- or  
21 over about a minute and a half where there was a continual  
22 series of -- of violent actions taken by you against that  
23 police line.

24 And you face serious felonies now as a result; a  
25 ten-count indictment, two counts of inflicting bodily injury on

1 police officers. That's a 20-year offense. A number of  
2 counts, I believe, of civil disorder. That's an 8-year  
3 offense, and also corruptly impeding an official proceeding,  
4 another 20-year offense.

5 So I -- I believe that those are significant felonies  
6 that you face and also weigh in favor of your detention, both  
7 because of how serious they are but also, again, because of the  
8 danger represented by individuals who stand charged with having  
9 committed those offenses.

10 So the first category, which is what we've been talking  
11 about, the first factor the Court is supposed to consider in  
12 making its detention determination is the nature and  
13 circumstances of the offense. I do find that that factor  
14 weighs in favor, and, you know, I've done that after  
15 considering the full circumstances of what I saw you do that  
16 day, as well as other decisions made by the circuit by other  
17 judges in this court as I attempt to evaluate my detention  
18 decisions based on the full range of conduct that has been  
19 charged that day.

20 With respect to the strength of the government's  
21 evidence, which is the second factor I'm supposed to consider,  
22 I think the government's got a very strong case. Again, you  
23 have the presumption of innocence. Case law has indicated that  
24 it's probably the least important factor for the Court to  
25 consider, but, nevertheless, it's a factor that we're supposed

1 to consider.

2 I've seen both the stills but now the video, which I  
3 think is pretty clear to me, about what you did that day and  
4 what happened and also what didn't happen. As I said, I saw  
5 violent, assaultive conduct on your behalf against the various  
6 law enforcement officers in that police line.

7 So it does appear to me that the government has a strong  
8 case, a case not only that you committed this offense but also  
9 strong in the sense that it, again, shows why you represent a  
10 danger. It's strong evidence of your own violence. So I think  
11 that factor points to your detention in this case.

12 With respect to the history and characteristics, I --  
13 I've indicated there are a number of them which are in your  
14 favor. The most important of which is you don't have any prior  
15 criminal record or any record of violating conditions of  
16 release a court might set for you. But I've also considered  
17 this factor with what the government has shown with respect to  
18 other activities you've been involved with, the calls to  
19 Congress people in December, the interaction with that Maine  
20 legislator in 2017. So I have considered that in -- I mean,  
21 you don't stand charged with threats. I think the -- the  
22 government here and in Maine have probably made the right  
23 decision.

24 But your conduct, especially viewed through the lens of  
25 what happened on January 6th, did strike me as -- as menacing,



1 intimidating. The fact that it was directed against  
2 legislators in -- presumably based on what you've said, you  
3 know, in the service of your political beliefs, concerns me  
4 because of what we saw on January 6th. You're allowed to have  
5 strongly held beliefs. You're allowed to reach out to your  
6 Congress people. You're not allowed to threaten them, but  
7 you're also not allowed to take violent action.

8 And what I see looking at the totality of the  
9 circumstances here is someone who is -- has very passionately  
10 held beliefs, perhaps abnormally so. And what I mean by that  
11 is it appears they can get the best of you. If you lose  
12 control, you can be violent. You're to me like a bomb waiting  
13 to go off.

14 It's always difficult for a magistrate judge making that  
15 sort of prediction, someone who might engage in violence if I  
16 were to release him. It's made somewhat easier for me here  
17 because the bomb did go off on December 6th -- on January 6th.  
18 Excuse me. That's what that video shows; someone who's willing  
19 to engage in violence to promote his political beliefs. The  
20 First Amendment doesn't protect that, sir.

21 You've gone beyond any constitutional right that you  
22 think you may have. Let me tell you, it does not permit that.  
23 And if the government can prove its case at trial, those  
24 beliefs may have caused you to violate very serious federal  
25 laws.

1           So I also consider all the other government's evidence  
2 with respect to your political beliefs, the menacing conduct  
3 that you've engaged in in the past directed towards political  
4 leaders, of which January 6th was the most extreme example for  
5 you. So I think all of those facts also weigh in favor when I  
6 consider your case as a whole of your detention.

7           I mean, the -- the wife, I -- I don't know what's going  
8 on with your wife. I -- I hope that whatever the issue is is  
9 resolved, but for me, you know, I'm not -- I don't hold against  
10 you that you somehow lack community ties. I think you plainly  
11 do and perhaps with her, but for me, it is yet another example  
12 of where your beliefs have led and the damage they have done  
13 and your -- frankly, your inability, apparently, to control  
14 your beliefs and to moderate your behavior.

15           I note as well that I've not seen any record of remorse,  
16 any record of taking a responsibility or acknowledgment that  
17 you did anything wrong. You don't ever have to do that, not at  
18 this point, but other courts in this jurisdiction have looked  
19 at that just in terms of while we are still in this political  
20 moment -- and in my view we are. Some suggestion in the  
21 *Munchel* opinion by one of the judges that we are somehow beyond  
22 the moment. I don't agree with that.

23           But while we are in this moment, where the individuals  
24 who were moved to violence on January 6th, have they shown  
25 remorse for that or should the Court be concerned that in the

1 next protest you might do the same thing? I would have that  
2 concern. I would not want to go to a protest where you were at  
3 because of fear that violence might break out. So I think it's  
4 important the -- the no remorse, no backtracking. I didn't  
5 hear any of that in that audio from that Lebanon town meeting.  
6 I heard someone who was just as passionate, if not even more  
7 so, on January 7th as they were on the 6th.

8 So for all these same reasons, I do find that your  
9 release would present a danger to the community and I would not  
10 feel confident that I could structure conditions of release  
11 that would fairly, reasonably assure the safety of the  
12 community. Again, sir, I don't think you're a flight risk. I  
13 deny the government's request to hold you for that reason, but  
14 I will hold you because I believe there's clear and convincing  
15 evidence as I look at the totality of this case, what you're  
16 alleged to have done, the strength of the government's  
17 evidence, and other cases from this jurisdiction involving  
18 events on January 6th; that this is an appropriate case for  
19 detention because of the danger your release would represent to  
20 the community.

21 That's my decision. I will be issuing a detention memo  
22 shortly, which will put in writing the things I've said here  
23 today.

24 Do we have a next date in this case? Government?

25 MS. BHATIA: Your Honor, I believe that the clerk had

1 mentioned a status hearing was set for April 22nd in front of  
2 Judge Jackson.

3 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Yes. April 22nd at 11:00 a.m.  
4 before Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

5 THE COURT: April 22nd at 11:00 a.m. before  
6 Judge Jackson.

7 Mr. Fitzsimons, I'll tell you, you -- you have the right  
8 to, you know, appeal my decision. I'm not the last word on  
9 your detention. So you'll be in front of Judge Jackson here in  
10 a few weeks, and Mr. Hunter can advise you on whether or not  
11 that's something you should do and how that's done. So you do  
12 have a right to appeal your -- your detention decision that  
13 I've just made. And that would be directed towards  
14 Judge Jackson.

15 The next date in this case will be before her on -- I'm  
16 sorry -- April the --

17 MS. BHATIA: 22nd.

18 THE COURT: April the 22nd. This will be your last  
19 stop before a magistrate judge, Mr. Fitzsimons. It will be  
20 Judge Jackson who will handle the case going forward and who  
21 will be the judge for your trial, if you go to trial.

22 Any further requests from the government?

23 MS. BHATIA: Yes, Your Honor. So I believe looking  
24 at the -- the docket entries, Judge Faruqui ruled under the  
25 Speedy Trial Act to exclude the time up until the last hearing,

1 which I believe was March 29th. We are asking that any time --  
2 I'm sorry. Up until the detention hearing yesterday set on  
3 April 6th. So we're asking for a similar exclusion of time  
4 from April 6th through April 22nd under the Speedy Trial Act.

5 THE COURT: For what purpose?

6 MS. BHATIA: Yes, Your Honor. So obviously the  
7 Chief Judge's standing order, but also that the interests of  
8 justice outweigh the interests of the defendant, obviously this  
9 being part of a set of complex cases in which there is  
10 voluminous discovery, which we are going to attempt to start  
11 providing to Mr. Hunter immediately. But for those reasons,  
12 Your Honor, we ask for the exclusion of time.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Hunter?

14 MR. HUNTER: Your Honor, I -- I'm -- I'm -- I'm aware  
15 of the challenges facing the government here, and as an officer  
16 of this court, I know it's incumbent on me to -- to do what I  
17 can do to -- to help all of us to -- to get through this  
18 unprecedented number of cases being tried all at the same time.  
19 As -- as counsel for Mr. Fitzsimons, I'm -- I'm deeply troubled  
20 by stretching the -- the precedent about what -- and the rules  
21 about what is a complex case and what are the -- the --  
22 demanded by the ends of justice for -- for delays. His case --  
23 they said nothing that makes this case complex. He -- he  
24 doesn't have co-defendants here that he's being -- being tried  
25 with for judicial economy.

1           It's just inconvenient for the government because  
2 they've chosen to prosecute 400 defendants from -- from one day  
3 all at the same time, and -- and I know that they're unable  
4 to -- to -- to do that. There just aren't enough hours in the  
5 day or enough AUSAs in the building.

6           But why is that the defendant's problem? Why -- why  
7 does the Speedy Trial Act not apply? Why do the --

8           THE COURT: Especially when he's held.

9           MR. HUNTER: Exactly, Your Honor. He's -- he's -- it  
10 frustrates me and I -- I --

11           THE COURT: Well, Mr. Hunter, let me --

12           (Indiscernible simultaneous cross-talk.)

13           MR. HUNTER: -- a window.

14           THE COURT: Well, let me just -- I mean, maybe this  
15 will make it somewhat easier for you. The -- there's motions,  
16 the complex case, we want -- 60-, 90-day extension motions are  
17 out there. I don't know if it's been filed in this case. I  
18 don't hear the government is making that request right now.  
19 They're requesting a -- a tolling just between now and the next  
20 date. Perhaps at that date they will be making -- asking for a  
21 longer period of time.

22           I think such request is best directed -- I would not  
23 rule on it. It's Judge Jackson's case at this point. So we're  
24 just talking between now and -- and April the 22nd. And I'm  
25 certainly not -- would not make right now a complex case

1 finding justifying that limited tolling. Again, you can still  
2 say no. It's up to you.

3 MR. HUNTER: Your Honor, I -- and I -- I appreciate  
4 your -- your making that finding. I would also point out the  
5 difference when we set this hearing, we set it for March  
6 the 31st. The government then was unable to make March  
7 the 31st, and -- and it was on their motion that the case  
8 was -- was -- was delayed another week to get in front of -- of  
9 your court. And I'm happy to be here, but that delay is  
10 entirely at their -- their convenience. And I don't think that  
11 time should be excluded and -- and counted against the  
12 defendant, especially while he's held.

13 And I -- and I know I'm probably just making that --  
14 that objection for the record, but this -- this is my windmill  
15 to tilt that.

16 THE COURT: So I don't -- just let me make clear.  
17 What's your position? Are you willing to toll time between now  
18 and the 22nd or not, and -- or is it just the period of time  
19 between March 31st and today that you don't want to toll?

20 MR. HUNTER: I don't want to toll any of it, Judge.  
21 I -- I realize that's the reality that -- that we live with.  
22 And -- and I know this has just never happened in American  
23 jurisprudence and certainly -- certainly not in our district  
24 that we have our regular 2021 criminal docket, our regular 2021  
25 civil docket, maybe more so because we're -- we're climbing out

1 of the COVID thing and then we add, what, 400 cases to the  
2 docket all at once? There's going to be problems. I -- I -- I  
3 fully embrace that as an officer to this court. As  
4 Mr. Fitzsimons' counsel, I have to complain about it.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Well, again, I think that for  
6 longer extensions of time, I will leave it to Chief [sic] Judge  
7 Jackson.

8 I will grant the government's request over the defense's  
9 objection to just toll time between now and April the 22nd for  
10 the -- the reasons stated by the government given, just at the  
11 very least the volume of discovery that will need to be  
12 presented.

13 Where is the government with respect to its plea policy?  
14 Is it making plea offers, and has it made one to  
15 Mr. Fitzsimons?

16 MS. BHATIA: Your Honor, not at this time. I think  
17 that that should be forthcoming shortly. Now that the  
18 protective order is in place, we've told Mr. Hunter that we're  
19 going to be working diligently to informally provide him  
20 discovery, and then our office is already undertaking the  
21 efforts to do fast-track discovery where a large amount of  
22 discovery will be provided in batches to defense counsel.

23 So I imagine we'll be able to provide Mr. Hunter with  
24 some discovery at least by the end of this week, and we're  
25 going to be undertaking that process to get this case



1 fast-tracked, obviously, because Mr. Fitzsimons is detained.  
2 So it's a priority to provide that as soon as possible. And I  
3 think the turnaround time for that is about a week to two  
4 weeks. Don't hold me to it, but I think we're --

5 THE COURT: Well, I'm not, but Mr. Hunter will. But  
6 you'll see Judge Jackson. So I'm sure he will quote you.

7 MS. BHATIA: I'm sure he will. I'm sure he will.

8 THE COURT: It's just a question. I want to know  
9 where his plea offer is.

10 MS. BHATIA: I -- I understand --

11 (Indiscernible simultaneous cross-talk.)

12 MS. BHATIA: So there is no plea offer at this time.  
13 We have not been authorized, at least from what I understand,  
14 to make plea offers. I know -- I know this is probably the  
15 line from a lot of the AUSAs, but I have been told that they  
16 will be forthcoming at some point. I hope soon after being  
17 able to provide discovery, we can be in a position to engage in  
18 plea negotiations. And just to clarify --

19 THE COURT: I've got to tell you, I mean, you -- you  
20 might have an argument in some other cases. I don't see why  
21 Mr. Fitzsimons' -- Fitzsimons' case should be held up, his plea  
22 should be held up. You know, you've heard my ruling, but he  
23 stilled seemed to be out there acting alone. You know, sort of  
24 a different category of case, a little bit of a lone wolf,  
25 which can be problematic, and I think is problematic. But it's

1 not as if it appears to me that the government needs, you know  
2 more -- more investigation in this case.

3 The case is what it is and it's pretty strong. And as  
4 far as the co-conspirators and the like, I -- I just don't see  
5 it. I don't see what the concern is and why his case can't  
6 move forward and his plea offer be made.

7 MS. BHATIA: Understood, Your Honor. I -- we -- we  
8 will certainly try to move it along as quickly as possible.

9 I also just want to clarify for the record, because  
10 Mr. Hunter did point out that the original detention hearing  
11 was set for, I believe, March 31st. I just want to clarify for  
12 the record, I think I requested the time be tolled from  
13 April 6th to April 22nd. I think Judge Faruqui's exclusion  
14 only took us through March 31st. So I'd be asking from -- for  
15 March 31st through April 22nd to make sure we have that -- the  
16 entire time covered.

17 THE COURT: Well, I will -- look, I think it's  
18 covered as well because the detention decision was being  
19 briefed and pending. So there are --

20 MS. BHATIA: Yes.

21 THE COURT: -- any number of reasons, but I will also  
22 exclude it because, you know, I -- we needed the time,  
23 certainly the Court did, to -- as Mr. Hunter suggested, sober  
24 reflection of the issues raised by this detention hearing.

25 So in any event, I am tolling all time between the 31st

1 and April 22nd. You know, I suspect that Mr. Hunter's  
2 objection will grow stronger every week as to, you know, why  
3 this case shouldn't move forward, especially now that his  
4 client is being held. At the very least, that he receive a  
5 plea offer. That's just surprising to me. It is April  
6 the 7th. We are three months in. No plea?

7 MS. BHATIA: I understand, Your Honor. We --

8 THE COURT: All right. That's all I can do,  
9 Mr. Hunter.

10 MR. HUNTER: Listen, Judge, I -- I really appreciate  
11 it. You made that -- that point beautifully. Usually --  
12 usually defense lawyers are -- are happy to have a judge try  
13 the case for -- for as long as they're not going to lose it,  
14 but I thought you did better than I would have. So I  
15 appreciate that.

16 THE COURT: All right. Well, good enough.

17 Mr. Fitzsimons, I do -- I wish you the best of luck in  
18 your case going forward, and you do have the presumption of  
19 innocence. The jury would never be told the decision I made  
20 here today; all right? It's a clean slate.

21 All right. Parties are excused.

22 (The proceedings concluded at 4:15 p.m.)  
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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct, and complete transcript of the audio-recorded proceedings in this matter, audio recorded on April 7, 2021, and transcribed from the audio recording to the best of my ability, and that said transcript has been compared with the audio recording.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2021.

/s/ Nancy J. Meyer \_\_\_\_\_  
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