



'DOMINATION' TACTICS DECRIED

Bipartisan rebuke of Trump move

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WASHINGTON - Claiming he is backed by a "silent majority," President Donald Trump turned the nation's capital into a model for the overwhelming force he believes is needed to stop sometimes-violent protests that have spread across the country in a time of racial unrest. His tactics were decried Tuesday by some fellow Republicans as well as his presumptive Democratic opponent.

The violent dispersal of peaceful protests near the White House the night before was a potent symbol of Trump's policing tactics and a physical manifestation of the rhetorical culture war he has stoked since before he was elected. Moments after historic Lafayette Park was cleared, Trump walked across to pose with a Bible in front of a church damaged by fire during protests the previous evening.

See **TRUMP** on A5 ►

◀ **TRUMP** from A1

"D.C. had no problems last night. Many arrests. Great job done by all. Overwhelming force. Domination," Trump tweeted Tuesday, after a night in which heavily armed military forces and federal officers swarmed the city. Trump added: "Likewise, Minneapolis was great (thank you President Trump!)."

Trump's actions drew widespread condemnation from Democrats and religious leaders who said he was misusing the Bible and the church where presidents have prayed for more than 150 years. Some Republicans joined in the criticism on Tuesday.

"There is no right to riot, no right to destroy others' property ... but there is a fundamental — a Constitutional — right to protest, and I'm against clearing out a peaceful protest for a photo op that treats the Word of God as a political prop," said Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said it was "painful to watch peaceful protesters be subjected to tear gas in order for the president to go across the street to a church that I believe he's attended only once." While Americans are justifiably upset that the historic church was set on fire and vandalized, "I thought that the president came across as unsympathetic and insensitive," she said.

The president wanted to make the aggressive action in the nation's capital — where he wields disproportionate powers — an example for the rest of the country, a senior White House official said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity. Trump hoped his personal walk to the church, after federal officials dispersed protesters, would send a message about how dominant force could restore law and order.

The president has threatened that if states do not take tough enough action, he will deploy active duty military across the country to quell unrest in the wake of the death of George Floyd.

Trump on Tuesday appeared to be backing off that threat, instead turning his Twitter fire on New York officials, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a frequent political sparring partner.

"New York was lost to the looters, thugs, Radical Left, and all others forms of Lowlife & Scum," Trump tweeted. "The Governor refuses to accept my offer of a dominating National Guard. NYC was ripped to pieces."

Midtown Manhattan was pocked with battered storefronts Tuesday. Macy's flagship store was among those hit after crowds of people smashed windows and looted stores Monday as they swept through the area. A police sergeant was hospitalized after being hit by a car in the Bronx, where people walked Tuesday between ransacked buildings and a burned-out car on the Grand Concourse, a commercial thoroughfare.

Police made nearly 700 arrests, and Mayor Bill de Blasio extended an 8 p.m. curfew all week.

"We're going to have a tough few days," he warned, but added: "We're going to beat it back." He pleaded with community leaders to step forward and "create peace."

Trump, meanwhile, toured the St. John Paul II National Shrine on Tuesday.

Washington Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory called it "reprehensible that any Catholic facility would allow itself to be so egregiously misused and manipulated in a fashion that violates our religious principles, which call us to defend the rights of all people even those with whom we might disagree."

"Likewise, Minneapolis was great (thank you President Trump!)"

President Donald Trump, tweeting about the previous night