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Michael T. van der Veen, one of former President Donald J. Trump's lawyers, on Friday before presenting the defense's case.

FOCUS OF DEFENSE IN TRIAL OF TRUMP: HIS RIVALS' WORDS

Assailing Democrats and Playing Down Ex-President's Bid to Void Election

By PETER BAKER and NICHOLAS FANDOS

Former President Donald J. Trump's legal team mounted a combative defense on Friday focused more on assailing Democrats for "hypocrisy" and "hatred" than justifying Mr. Trump's own monthslong effort to overturn a democratic election that culminated in last month's deadly assault on the Capitol.

After days of powerful video footage showing a mob of Trump supporters beating police officers, chasing lawmakers and threatening to kill the vice president and House speaker, Mr. Trump's lawyers denied that he had incited what they called a "small group" that turned violent. Instead, they tried to turn the tables by calling out Democrats for their own language, which they deemed just as incendiary as Mr. Trump's.

In so doing, the former president's lawyers went after not just the House Democrats serving as managers, or prosecutors, in the Senate impeachment trial, but half of the jurors sitting in front of them in the chamber. A rat-a-tat-tat montage of video clips played by the Trump team showed nearly every Democratic senator as well as President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris using the word "fight" or the phrase "fight like hell" just as Mr. Trump did at a rally of supporters on Jan. 6 just before the siege of the Capitol.

"Suddenly, the word 'fight' is off limits?" said Michael T. van der Veen, one of the lawyers hurriedly hired in recent days to defend Mr. Trump. "Spare us the hypocrisy

and false indignation. It's a term that's used over and over and over again by politicians on both sides of the aisle. And, of course, the Democrat House managers know that the word 'fight' has been used figuratively in political speech forever."

To emphasize the point, the Trump team played some of the same clips four or five times in less than three hours as some of the Democratic senators shook their heads and at least one of their Republican colleagues laughed appreciatively. The lawyers argued that the trial was "shameful" and "a deliberate attempt by the Democrat Party to smear, censor and cancel" an opponent and then rested their case without using even a quarter of the 16 hours allotted to the former president's defense.

In the process, they tried to effectively narrow the prosecution's "incitement of insurrection" case as if it centered only on their cli-

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Bruce Castor, defense lawyer.

Legal Team Adapts Arguments to Suit Its Client's Taste for Combat

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT and MAGGIE HABERMAN

Ever since Donald J. Trump began his run for president, he has been surrounded by an ever-shifting cast of lawyers with varying abilities to control, channel and satisfy their mercurial and headstrong client.

During the final weeks of the 2016 campaign, Michael D. Cohen arranged for hush money payments to be made to a former pornographic film actress. In the

second year of Mr. Trump's presidency, John M. Dowd, the head of the team defending the president in the Russia investigation, quit after he concluded that Mr. Trump was refusing to listen to his counsel.

By Mr. Trump's third year in office, he had found a new lawyer to do his bidding as Rudolph W. Giuliani first undertook a campaign to undermine Joseph R. Biden Jr. and then helped lead the fruitless effort to overturn the results of the 2020 election, with stops in Ukraine and at Four Seasons Total

Trump Directs Strategy of Grievance and Spin

Landscaping along the way.

On Friday, the latest members of Mr. Trump's legal cast took center stage in his impeachment trial and for the most part delivered exactly what he always seems to want from his lawyers: not precise, learned legal arguments but public combat, in this case includ-

ing twisted facts, rewritten history and attacks on opponents.

Despite an often unorthodox and undisciplined approach from his legal teams, Mr. Trump has survived more legal challenges as president than any of his recent predecessors. Although federal investigators uncovered the hush money payments and significant evidence he may have obstructed the Russia investigation, he was never charged. He was acquitted by the Senate in his first impeachment trial related to the Ukraine

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Cuomo Faces New Scrutiny Of Death Data

By JESSE MCKINLEY and LUIS FERRÉ-SADURNÍ

ALBANY, N.Y. — Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and his administration faced new allegations on Friday that they had covered up the scope of the coronavirus death toll in New York's nursing homes, after a top aide to the governor admitted that the state had withheld data because it feared an investigation by the Trump Justice Department.

The remarks by the top aide, Melissa DeRosa, made in what was supposed to be a private conference call with Democratic lawmakers, came as a cascading series of news reports and a court order have left Mr. Cuomo, a third-term Democrat, scrambling to contain the political fallout over his oversight of nursing homes, where more than 13,000 people have died in the pandemic in the state.

Lawmakers from both parties have called for stripping the governor of the emergency powers that he has exercised during the pandemic, while Republicans have demanded the resignations of top Cuomo administration officials and new federal investigations.

Ms. DeRosa's jarring admission came when she was asked about ongoing delays in giving lawmakers nursing home death data. She said that after the Department of Justice requested information last summer, "basically, we froze."

At the time, the governor's office was also facing similar requests from the State Legislature. "We were in a position where we weren't sure if what we were

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TAYLOR GLASCOCK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Cecilia Krizmanich, a teacher at Kilmer Elementary in Chicago, setting up a computer for Marvin Araujo-Avilas as some public school students in the city returned to classrooms on Thursday.

C.D.C. Offers Path to Reopening Nation's Schools

This article is by Apoorva Mandavilli, Kate Taylor and Dana Goldstein.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday urged that K-12 schools be reopened as soon as possible, and it offered a step-by-step plan to get students back in classrooms and to resolve a debate dividing communities across the nation.

The guidelines highlight growing evidence that schools can open safely if they use measures designed to slow the coronavirus's spread. The agency said that even in communities with high transmission rates, elementary school students may receive at least some in-person instruction safely. Middle and high school stu-

Detailed Plan Comes as Teachers Worry and Parents Despair

The guidelines arrive amid an intensifying debate. Even as parents in some districts grow frustrated with shuttered schools, some teachers and their unions refuse to return to classrooms they regard as unsafe.

Public school enrollment has declined in many districts. Education and civil rights leaders are worried about the harm to children who have not been in classrooms for nearly a year. The recommendations tread a middle ground between those eager to see a resumption of in-person learning and those fearful that schools reopenings will spread the virus.

In advice that may disappoint some teachers, the document

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Taking 75-Year-Old for Vaccine Is New Way to Qualify for One

By ELLEN BARRY

BOSTON — Gloria Clark of Malden, Mass., woke up on Thursday with one goal and one goal only: to find herself an unvaccinated person over the age of 75.

She started with an ad on Craigslist, but responses were sluggish, so she started knocking on doors. The 89-year-old two doors down was not interested. An 80-year-old neighbor was not home, and typically napped in the afternoon, but Ms. Clark was undaunted.

"I'll catch her tomorrow morning," said Ms. Clark, 72, a retired high school math teacher. "I'll find someone. I know I will."

This week, Massachusetts began a first-in-the-nation experiment, offering vaccinations to

those who accompany people who are 75 and older to mass vaccination sites.

The plan was intended to ease access problems for older people, who have struggled to book online appointments and travel to sports stadiums. Right away, it met with criticism from state legislators and some public health experts, who said it could result in scarce doses going to young, healthy people.

It also gave rise to an unusual online market, as entrepreneurial Massachusetts residents sought to forge caregiving relationships at top speed.

"I have a great driving record and a very clean Toyota Camry,"

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Rotting Pork, Discarded Mussels And Other Brexit Trade Troubles

This article is by Peter S. Goodman, Stephen Castile and Eshé Nelson.

LONDON — As the new year made Brexit a reality, Tony Hale encountered the pitfalls of Europe's redrawn geography. Specifically, he confronted the need to extricate 53 tons of rotting pork products from administrative purgatory at a port in the Netherlands.

For more than two decades, Mr. Hale's company had shipped pork to the European Union without customs checks, as if the United Kingdom and the continent across the water were one vast country. With Britain now legally outside the bloc, exporters suddenly had

to navigate inspections, safety regulations, and a bewildering crush of paperwork.

For Mr. Hale, incorrectly prepared documents meant sending five containers full of pork to an unplanned final destination — the incinerator.

"It's a new game, and we have got to learn the rules," Mr. Hale said. "We are having to double- and triple-check every document."

In the early days of the post-Brexit era, Britain is struggling to adapt to its new position in the global economy — its fortunes still tethered to the European Union;

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Australia's 'Rebel Reverend'

The Rev. Rod Bower's pugnacious political signs made him famous. But things have changed. PAGE A9

Was Stonehenge Moved?

The monument appears to have been in Wales before it was carried 175 miles east, a study suggests. PAGE A9

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-8

China Won't Share Key Data

The information that Beijing refused to hand over to W.H.O. investigators could be crucial to determining how and when the pandemic started. PAGE A8

BUSINESS B1-6

Hot or Cold, It Can't Be Beat

The affordability of pizza made it a pandemic staple and a rare bright spot for a struggling industry. PAGE B1

Tax on Big Tech's Ad Revenue

Analysts estimate that a new tax in Maryland will generate up to \$250 million in the first year. PAGE B1



SPORTSATURDAY B7-9

Australian Open Lockdown

Naomi Osaka and the other remaining players will continue without fans, but maybe with butterflies. PAGE B8

Jordan to the Rescue

Denny Hamlin asked the basketball hall of famer to rally behind the only Black driver in Nascar's top level. PAGE B7

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A Tense Lunar New Year

Attacks on Asians spread fear in the San Francisco Bay Area, where the pandemic and the economic crisis have hit hard and the holiday is greeted with only subdued celebrations. PAGE A12

Steady Stance on WikiLeaks

The Biden administration signals it will not heed calls to drop a Trump-era effort to prosecute Julian Assange, appealing to a British court to extradite the WikiLeaks founder. PAGE A16

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Elliot Ackerman

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THIS WEEKEND

