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Notes from editor (not for publication):

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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Will Senators combat the metastasis of lawlessness by
2 the Trump administration?

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Recently, a majority of the Supreme Court justices
6 expressed great skepticism about President Trump's executive
7 overreach in his burgeoning tariff regime.

8 While challenging the solicitor general's justification of
9 Trump's use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act
10 to impose tariffs, Justice Gorsuch likened the president's illegal
11 use of tariff authority to the illegal action of declaring war.

12 Gorsuch pointed out not only that the president cannot
13 declare war without the consent of Congress, the Constitution
14 also does not even allow Congress to delegate that power to the
15 president.

16 But for decades now, Congress has, without specifically
17 delegating its war powers to several presidents, totally abdicated
18 those responsibilities. As Justice Gorsuch suggests, that (in)action
19 by Congress is both illegal and unconstitutional.

20 After Oct. 7, 2023, Congress' failure to insist on its war
21 powers permitted the Biden administration to avoid condemning
22 American participation in the Israeli genocide in Gaza. And now
23 the Trump administration is participating not only in Israeli war
24 crimes but in war crimes in international waters in the Caribbean
25 and threatening to invade Venezuela. This abdication of
26 Congressional power is illegal, unconstitutional ... and shameful.

27 We in Vermont are proud that our senators have spoken
28 out against the genocide in Gaza, but now that even conservative
29 justices on the Supreme Court are pushing back against Trump's
30 executive overreach, it is incumbent upon us that we push Sens.
31 Welch and Sanders to stand strong against this limitless
32 encroachment on the prerogatives of Congress in all matters.

33 I urge you to call our senators, demanding that they use
34 every tool they have — the Foreign Assistance Act, the Leahy
35 Laws, and the War Powers Resolution — to stop the metastasis of
36 lawlessness by the Trump administration.

37 It's the least we can do. As Desmond Tutu said, "If you
38 are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of
39 the oppressor." That applies to the U.S. Congress... and to all of
40 us.

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