

Video Shows Planning for Break-in

Republican now faces expulsion

(AP) — A Republican state lawmaker faces being expelled from office after a video emerged apparently showing him choreographing how he would let far-right protesters into the closed Oregon Capitol days before he did so in December.

The crowd entered the building during an emergency legislative session last Dec. 21, and some sprayed chemical irritants at police.

On Monday, Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek introduced a resolution that would have the Democrat-controlled House expel Rep. Mike Nearman if two-thirds of its members vote in favor.

GOP members of the House also wrote a letter to Nearman on Monday, saying he should step down.

The lawmakers were referring to video that emerged late Friday that appeared to



Pro-Trump and anti-mask demonstrators hold a rally last Dec. 21 at the Oregon State Capitol. The day grew into a violent confrontation when protesters sprayed chemical irritants at police after a Republican lawmaker allowed protesters to enter the locked building. (AP photo)

show Nearman coaching constituents on how to text him so they could get into the Capitol.

Nearman himself said Monday he believes there are enough votes to expel him, but did not say whether he would resign.

The incident on Dec. 21 rattled lawmakers and staff inside the Capitol and foreshadowed the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol by rioters spurred on by then President Donald Trump. Several of those who were among the crowds in Salem on Dec.

21 later were in Washington during the U.S. Capitol attack.

As lawmakers met in emergency session on Dec. 21 to deal with economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, far-right rioters entered the building. They sprayed chemical irritants at officers who finally expelled them. Outside, protesters broke windows on the Capitol and assaulted journalists.

Later, security camera video emerged

showing Nearman opening a door to the Capitol, which was closed to the public because of the pandemic, allowing protesters to enter. Nearman allegedly told people in a video days earlier that he would let them in if they texted him, and he provided his cellphone number.

Nearman also faces two misdemeanor or criminal charges related to the Capitol break-in and has said he will seek a trial by jury.

Black Health Matters

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The Week in Review

Police Kill Man in Chase

A Clackamas County sheriff's shot and killed a person after a stolen vehicle pursuit and short foot chase in outer southeast Portland shortly after 2 a.m. on Monday. Deputies reportedly recovered a handgun near the person. There was no word on the identity of the person killed or the deputy.

Held for Violent Protests

A Black man accused of traveling to Portland to engage in property destruction during protests last fall, was in federal court last week and then held in jail without bail pending prosecution. Malik Fard Muhammad, 24, of Indianapolis, Ind. had earlier been bailed out of jail on local charges in connection with violent protests thanks to donations.



Racist Lyrics Removed

The Oregon Legislature Monday approved changes to the lyrics of Oregon's state song to remove racist language and make the lyrics more inclusive. "Oregon, My Oregon" created in 1919, referred to Oregon as "conquered and held by free men; fairest and the best." The new lyrics emphasizing Oregon's natural beauty.

Arrest in String of Arsons

Arson investigators were able to make an arrest after security vid-

eo showed a white man behind a string of arson fires set to different vehicles and structures in north Portland early last Wednesday morning. No motive was released. The suspect, Jesse Austin Small, faces eight charges of arson.

Juneteenth Voted as Holiday

Oregon lawmakers voted unanimously last week to recognize Juneteenth, a day recognizing the Emancipation Proclamation, as a state holiday every June 19, starting in 2022. The bill was introduced by Gov. Kate Brown earlier this year.

Vancouver Judge Will Retire

A Clark County judge who made racist comments about a young Black man killed by police announced last week that he plans to retire. The Vancouver NAACP and others racial justice advocates had sought Judge Darvin Zimmerman dismissal over his remarks in March about Kevin Peterson Jr., a 21-year-old Camas man shot by deputies after he ran from a drug sting with a gun.

'Mod Squad' Actor Dies

Clarence Williams III, who played the cool undercover cop Linc Hayes on the counterculture series "The Mod Squad" and Prince's father in "Purple Rain," died Friday in Los Angeles after a battle with colon cancer. He was 81.

