

to try to go it alone, not only in foreign affairs and national security matters but on immigration, health care, and the like.

It is past time for Congress to stand up and tell the President that he cannot act alone. Our Constitution contemplates three coequal branches of government, and Congress on behalf of the American people cannot be frozen out of the debate and the decision-making when it comes to something as important as an Iranian nuclear negotiation.

I see another Senator ready to speak. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND SOLVING PROBLEMS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, today is the National Day of Prayer. It is a day where we as a nation have an opportunity simply to get on our knees and ask God for Divine intervention and ask the Lord for help.

Our Nation is, indeed, an amazing nation, a great nation, a nation with a destiny. I think it is important for us to take the time to remind ourselves, as part of the foundation of this very Nation, that there is a foundation of faith.

As I think about that foundation of faith and the need for prayer, it is hard not to remember that the last year has proven to be a difficult time for low-income communities and minority communities throughout this country. It is time for us to have a national conversation about solving some of the problems that we see arising in communities around the Nation. Whether those communities are in Ferguson or Baltimore, Ohio or Oklahoma or in my hometown of North Charleston, SC, finding solutions is critical.

I believe that a part of the puzzle includes body cameras to be worn by our officers. Body cameras are simply not a fantasy but a part of a larger puzzle to provide solutions to communities that are distressed. I know firsthand that the solutions in my Opportunity Agenda work.

As a kid growing up in a single parent household, I drifted in the wrong direction. I struggled in school. I had a difficult time. I was a hopeless kid in a challenging situation. I will state that as I look around the Nation, many of the challenges we see today are kids just like me, growing up in places like where I grew up, looking for hope, looking for leadership.

I believe that embedded in my Opportunity Agenda we have some of the solutions that can help heal and restore as well as direct and instruct these communities into places of hope and opportunity. I believe that too often we see impoverished communities and distressed communities as high-risk communities. I prefer to see them as high-potential communities, communities where greatness breeds and lives. We just need to find an avenue to harness the potential and move forward.

I am hopeful that as we focus on the issues that are embedded in the Opportunity Agenda—issues such as education, and I mean a quality education in every ZIP Code in America and that we should have high-performing schools in those ZIP Codes. That includes school choice, whether it is charter or virtual or home schools or public schools. We need to have a serious and robust conversation about school choice.

Work skills are so important. In so many of these communities the unemployment rate is over 30 percent—a 30-percent unemployment rate. We can challenge those statistics by looking at the work skills and also by looking at apprenticeship programs, where you can earn and learn at the exact same time. We are breathing new hope into these communities. I also think that when we think about the future, we must think about the chance to save the future of so many of these young kids who may be losing hope in our country, who may be losing hope in their communities, and perhaps losing hope in themselves.

We have a chance to make a difference in this next generation.

I thank Senator GRASSLEY, our chairman of the Judiciary Committee, along with Senator GRAHAM, our subcommittee chair, for agreeing to hold a hearing on the use of body cameras in the next few weeks. I believe the hearing on body cameras will produce important information on how we can deal with some of the challenges in some of our distressed communities.

I believe we can find ways to restore hope and create opportunities for every single child in America.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNUAL SEÑORAS OF EXCELLENCE AND SEÑORES OF DISTINCTION AWARDS GALA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 10th Annual Señoras of Excellence and Señores of Distinction Awards Gala hosted by the Foundation for Excellence and Distinction in Las Vegas, NV.

The Foundation for Excellence and Distinction was created by Sandy and

Roger Peltyn with the sole purpose of raising funds to award scholarships for young Nevada students pursuing excellence in higher education. Over the last 10 years, the Foundation has awarded more than 700 scholarships through local charities, including the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV, Foundation, Nevada State College, Nevada Hospital Association, the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach at UNLV, College of Southern Nevada, Puerto Rican Association Scholarship Fund, HEART for children with AUTISM, Latin Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund, City Impact Center, and Miss Nevada Scholarship Organization. These scholarships would have not been possible without the support of the people of Nevada and the immeasurable contributions and collaboration from Karen Cashman and Ellie Hirschfield.

The foundation has recognized many strong señoras and señores throughout the community for their work to encourage the success of future generations. A Señora of Excellence can best be described as a woman who is confident in her beliefs, loyal to family and friends, accepts victories and disappointments with grace, and rises above life's challenges. A Señor of Distinction is a man who bases his life on principles, raises spirits, never lets people down, and makes sacrifices for future generations without expecting to receive anything in return.

We pay tribute to this year's award recipients and the previous honorees of the Señoras of Excellence and Señores of Distinction, Lifetime Achievement, Corporation of Distinction, and Humanitarian of the Year awards. This year, my dear friend Wayne Newton is the recipient of the Humanitarian of the Year award. I am grateful for his commitment to supporting education and his fierce advocacy for improving the lives of our Nation's service men and women.

I thank the foundation for their continued leadership and commitment to youth education and congratulate this year's award recipients. I wish the foundation continued success in the years to come.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, we have reached a tipping point in President Obama's quest for a "legacy". Ukraine is on fire; Senior Chinese generals openly boast of their desire to settle millennial scores with their neighbors; Al Qaeda is stronger than ever; ISIS is massacring Christians with a genocidal savagery the likes of which we have not seen since World War II; and Israel feels abandoned. American foreign policy is rudderless, bringing to mind Lewis Carroll's comment from Alice Through the Looking Glass, "If you don't know where you are going any road can take you there."

Now the President has staked his name on reaching a deal with the Ayatollahs no matter how dangerous or destabilizing the final accord is. If the Iranians agree to this, and from their own hegemonic interest they would be foolish not to, the Israeli hand will be forced as it was with the Iraqi Osirik reactor in 1981; or at the least, a Middle East nuclear arms race, that pulls in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf States, will begin.

Mr. Obama has turned his back on decades of assurances from Presidents of both parties that Iran would not acquire nuclear weapons. He has willfully ignored 40 years of hostility from Tehran. If the President does not recognize that we are at war, the mullahs certainly do. They are the chief sponsor of global terror. They have never stepped back from their desire to obliterate Israel and to destroy the United States. Our Arab friends see Iran creating a satellite "Shia Crescent" stretching to the Mediterranean and consisting of Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. To their south and west, they see Iran gaining control of Yemen. Shia Iran is so obsessed with its race to dominate the Middle East that it is funneling millions of dollars to the Sunni terrorist group Hamas, to fund their war against Israel, even though the Sunnis are religious enemies.

Tehran has a 9-figure line item in its budget to support terrorism, sending hundreds of millions of dollars to various groups each year; the payments to Hezbollah alone are as much as \$200 million annually. According to Canadian intelligence, "[I]n February 1999, it was reported that Palestinian police discovered documents that attest to the transfer of \$35 million to Hamas from the Iranian Intelligence Service (MOIS), money reportedly meant to finance terrorist activities against Israeli targets." Illustrating how such support is part of official government policy, from 2001 to 2006, Iran transferred \$50 million to Hezbollah fronts in Lebanon by sending funds from its central bank through Bank Saderat's London office.

Mr. President, 40 years ago, Richard Nixon confronted Soviet incursions into the Middle East. The so called Nixon Doctrine laid the foundation for a peaceful pro-Western resolution of the various crises in the region. Nixon made it clear to everyone that the United States would not abandon Israel. Israel would be backed by the power of the United States in any conflict with its Soviet backed Arab neighbors and against the Soviet Union itself. One by one, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Emirates, recognized the futility of armed hostility to Israel and backed away from Moscow and made peace, an imperfect peace but peace nonetheless. Golda Meir called President Nixon "the best friend Israel ever had."

In the region's west, Nixon promoted a secular pro-Western Iran, albeit under the imperfect leadership of the

Shah. Nevertheless, the Shah bottled the Soviet Navy from entering the Persian Gulf and Iran's economy took off—until Jimmy Carter decided to aid the transfer of the Ayatollah Khomeini from his Paris exile back to Iran—in the name of human rights. We have reaped the whirlwind.

Now we have the Obama Doctrine. America is the problem. Israel is viewed as an obstacle to peace and Iran is treated as another oppressed constituency with legitimate grievances against the West, so much so that when millions of Iranians took to the streets against the mullahs, President Obama did nothing and said nothing—strengthening the hand of the clerics. When the Egyptian generals overthrew the Muslim Brotherhood, who were waging war against Coptic Christians and openly spoke of renewing the fight against Israel—the State Department condemned them as "undemocratic." The old American alliances are collapsing in confusion and fear and the only answer from the administration seems to be to clear Iran's path toward a nuclear weapon.

The greatest concession in the current negotiations has been the abandonment of the original U.S. position of preventing Iran from having a nuclear-weapons capability. This was the stance of the Bush administration. It was also the position of the Obama administration until November 2013. This is a disaster. Here is what we know as acknowledged by the Obama administration negotiators including the Secretaries of State and Energy:

There will be no limits on Iran's ballistic-missile force, the means for delivering its nuclear weapons. The U.S. position of seeking limits on the missile force was abandoned when the Supreme Leader objected and Obama conceded.

There will be no resolution of Iran's weaponization activities. Iran will promise once again to cooperate with the IAEA, but no one expects anything other than more Iranian obstacles. A resolution of weaponization activities was also a precondition for an agreement.

Inspections will be based on managed access but only on Iran's terms. At one point, the U.S. insisted that effective verification required full access to facilities and people. Under the Obama plan there will be no inspections of military sites much less suspected covert facilities such as the Lavizan-3 site or the Fordow weapons complex buried deep in the Iranian mountains.

Obama will allow the Arak heavy-water reactor to be modified but not in any way that prevents Iran from using it to produce plutonium for weapons. Again, the initial Obama position was that the reactor must be dismantled.

The economic sanctions, particularly the banking freeze that wrecked the Iranian economy will be lifted. In fact, Tehran has already received billions of dollars just for continuing the negotiations. It has already freed the Russians

to sell the advanced S-300 air defense system. As agitation against the mullahs was growing we have given them a lifeline. Squeezing Iran economically, aided by the fall in worldwide oil prices, was the surest way to force concessions. Once the sanctions are lifted it will be nearly impossible to go back.

The restrictions on Iran's nuclear program will reportedly be phased out after 10 years, a period shorter than the time it has taken to negotiate the agreement. The original U.S. position was that restrictions would be permanent. As Henry Kissinger said, far from enabling the President's goal of disengaging from the Middle East, the framework will necessitate a deepening involvement in the region under a complex "new order" dictated by a nuclear Iran.

Iran will be allowed to operate thousands of centrifuges to enrich uranium and to pursue research and development of more advanced systems. The original U.S. position—backed by multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding complete suspension of all enrichment activities—was zero enrichment and zero centrifuges. Under President Obama, zero was abandoned as unrealistic, and the number of permitted centrifuges moved up, according to the Secretary of Energy from 1,000 to 4,000 to 6,000. Iran has rejected each offer as insufficient, only to be rewarded with a better one. That is how the administration negotiates—from behind.

In his 1987 State of the Union Address, Ronald Reagan warned us:

Our approach is not to seek agreement for agreement's sake but to settle only for agreements that truly enhance our national security and that of our allies. We will never put our security at risk or that of our allies just to reach an agreement . . . No agreement is better than a bad agreement.

There you have it. Our allies—Israel, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Jordan, and Egypt—are worried. Tehran is on the march and moving closer to nuclear status. As Charles Krauthammer noted, "the one great hope for Middle East peace, the strategic anchor for forty years", is giving the green light to both. That is not a legacy of which to be proud.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE NEVADA APPEAL'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 150th birthday of the Silver State's oldest daily newspaper, the Nevada Appeal. I am proud to honor this publication that brings high-quality news to Nevada's capital.

Growing up in Carson City, this newspaper has played a role in my life since I was a young boy. Each morning, two of my brothers would deliver the Nevada Appeal to the local community. Of course, I was their No. 1 substitute