

So the question looms: What will the Senate do in response? What will my Republican colleagues do in response? A few of them have echoed Senator MCCAIN's sentiments, and they deserve recognition for that, but those Senators who are not JOHN MCCAIN, who are here in the Senate wielding an immense power to shape events, I say to them, words are not enough. Our response to the debasement of American interests before a foreign adversary demands a response, not just in word but in deed. Our Republican colleagues cannot just talk the talk—some of them have done that, most haven't—but, as a body, they need to walk the walk. The American people are demanding it.

Our country needs to see Republicans in the Senate and the Republican Party stand up and show through action that unlike our President, they will not tolerate Russian aggression or accept Putin's lies. They need to act in the spirit of Ronald Reagan, not in the spirit of Donald Trump. Too often, when the President goes off the reservation, the Republican Party has lightly rebuked his behavior and waited for everyone to move on. Given the crisis, given Trump's horrible actions, that is not good enough. Our Republican colleagues cannot just go *tsk-tsk*. They must act if they want to help America.

Yesterday, I outlined four things we could do immediately in response to the President's disastrous summit. Let me repeat them and add a fifth.

First, ratchet up sanctions on Russia, not water them down. The sanctions we passed 98 to 2 have not even been fully implemented. Some in the House now want to reduce those sanctions. We need to strengthen them.

Second, and very importantly—probably most importantly—our Republican colleagues need to join us in demanding testimony from the President's national security team that was in Helsinki, and we need to do that immediately. We need hearings as soon as possible to assess what President Trump might have committed to President Putin in secret. President Trump's public statements were alarming enough. The Senate needs to know what happened behind closed doors. Does anyone believe he was tougher on Putin in secret? You can't assume anything but that as weak as he was in public before President Putin, he was even worse in private. Why else did he not want anyone in the room?

President Trump and President Putin met one-on-one behind closed doors for nearly 2 hours. Where are the notes from the meeting? What did the President agree to? Was Secretary Pompeo briefed afterward on what happened? Were any other members of the President's team briefed? The American people need to know what is happening. The American people deserve to know what is happening. It is our security at risk.

I am calling on Leader MCCONNELL and his leadership team to imme-

diately request a hearing with Secretary of State Pompeo and the rest of the President's national security team from Helsinki so we can find out what the heck happened there—the explanation for what happened openly, and even more importantly, what happened in that meeting behind closed doors.

Third, our Republican friends must end the attacks on the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the special counsel. Those have mainly emanated from a small group in the House.

Given the indictments, given the indictment yesterday, not from Mueller but from mainline Justice, we have to let this investigation go forward. President Trump's actions yesterday lead many more Americans to suspect that something was amiss; that there may have been collusion. What else would explain President Trump's actions and protestations in a foreign country?

We need to end these attacks and let the investigation proceed unimpeded and encourage the President to sit down for an interview with Mueller.

Fourth, the President must insist on the extradition of the 12 Russians recently indicted for election interference. In one of the more bizarre of many bizarre incidents yesterday, Putin suggested that Americans come and interview the Russians in Russia or actually watch as Russian agents interview the Russians in Russia. Is Russia known for a free and open judicial system? Is Russia known for the rule of law? Of course not. It was an absurd suggestion. Any other President would have rejected it out of hand.

We need to bring them here, and the President, to represent the honor and the strength of the United States—something he has failed to do thus far—needs to demand it.

Finally, election security. Our elections are at risk. We have now had indictments of Russians interfering in the 2016 elections. Everyone in America, except Donald Trump, admits that happened—Democrats and Republicans, Speaker RYAN, Leader MCCONNELL—that Russia tried to interfere and interfere, most everyone believes, on President Trump's behalf. Why? Well, we heard Putin's explanation.

We can't have that happen again. We must move election security legislation immediately.

To its credit, in a bipartisan way, this Chamber and the other put \$380 million in the last omnibus for election security, but there is very fine legislation. One is sponsored by Senator KLOBUCHAR, and she has worked with some of the Republicans on that. Another is sponsored by Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN. I believe Senator RUBIO is a co-sponsor of that. We need to move that legislation—hopefully, with bipartisan support—quickly.

These are five simple things we can do together, Democrats and Republicans.

Now, yesterday, I saw my good friend—I see him sitting here—Senator CORNYN say that we have done most of

these things already. I wish it were so. It isn't. We haven't done any of it. Leader MCCONNELL has not called for hearings to bring Secretary Pompeo and others here. We have not increased sanctions, which we should do. In fact, there is a move in the House to decrease them. We have not asked the President to demand extradition of the Russians. We have not urged some Republicans, particularly in the House, to stop interfering with the Mueller investigation. We haven't done any of the four items I mentioned yesterday or the fifth I mentioned today. I hope Senator CORNYN and others will lead the charge and help us get those done, in a bipartisan way, for the sake of this wonderful and great country.

The bottom line is that we need to act. A few statements will not change President Trump's behavior and will not stop President Putin from continuing to make a mess of our alliances around the world and our elections here in America. Action is required. The eyes of America are on the Republicans in the Senate to join us in the actions I have outlined or other actions they might feel appropriate.

#### NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, turning to SCOTUS, I will conclude this morning by adding that at this very delicate time, Senators from both parties should carefully scrutinize President Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh. Not only has President Trump promised to select judges who would overturn *Roe v. Wade* and undo the healthcare law, Judge Kavanaugh has some troubling views on Executive power and accountability.

We have all just witnessed the behavior of a reckless President who has shown he is willing to test the bounds of Executive authority at home, just as he is willing to depart from all wisdom and sense on foreign soil.

Judge Kavanaugh has demonstrated in several writings that he believes the President should be above civil and criminal indictment while in office and that the President should be granted broad deference to enforce or not enforce laws he "deems" unconstitutional.

Consider for a moment what it would mean for the Supreme Court to rule that this President is immune from indictment or that he should be allowed to exercise his authority so wantonly as to decide which laws to enforce or not. That is all the more reason, given what Judge Kavanaugh has written, that he get careful and rigorous scrutiny before we move on any vote.

I yield the floor.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Morning business is closed.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 11:45 a.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Texas.

## RUSSIAN ELECTION INTERFERENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about the “Abolish ICE” movement and the reasons that is a misconceived idea by some on the left, but first I feel compelled to respond just briefly to some of the comments made by our friend from New York, the Democratic leader.

First of all, the Democratic leader says we need to have hearings on the matter of Russian interference in our elections. I would remind the Democratic leader that we have been doing that for a long time—ever since the intelligence community assessment was released at the end of the Obama administration documenting Russia’s meddling in the election. That assessment was released on an unclassified basis. It is on the website of the Director of National Intelligence if anybody wants to read it.

Also, I would submit to him the 29-page indictment that Robert Mueller had issued by a grand jury against 12 Russian intelligence officers. It lays out in minute detail what the Russians were doing to try to cause confusion and undermine public confidence in our elections. As a matter of fact, this afternoon the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is hearing from some Obama administration officials on why they didn’t do more to stop it back when President Obama was in office when they knew very clearly what was going on but did not do—well, did virtually nothing to stop it.

So I would say to my friend from New York, the Democratic leader, there have been a lot of hearings, and the hearings are ongoing. Obviously, Special Counsel Mueller has issued this indictment. I only wish that it was more than a name-and-shame exercise because there is no chance the Russians will extradite these intelligence officers over here for a trial. But I think it does serve a useful educational purpose by pointing out in minute detail what the Russians have been up to. They have upped their game in a way that is surprising to many people, having used everything from propaganda, to social media, to cyber theft of information like the Clinton emails and the DNC emails during the course of the last election. It has gotten very sophis-

ticated. We better be about fixing it and getting ready for the next election rather than coming to the floor and engaging in the favorite Washington pastime, which is the blame game.

Senator SCHUMER said we need to issue sanctions against Russia. Well, I have in front of me about two single-spaced pages of actions that we have taken since the beginning of the Trump administration to support our allies against Russian aggression and to punish Russian misconduct, whether it is in the elections or otherwise. I would entertain—I understand the Senator from Colorado has some additional sanctions he thinks would be appropriate, and I think that would be something that would sting.

Rather than just sending a press release or trying to message this or use it for partisan political purposes, let’s consider additional sanctions that will actually discourage and hold accountable the Russians for their election meddling and deter them, hopefully, from doing it again.

I understand the fourth thing my friend from New York said is that we need to stop criticizing the Comey FBI and the Department of Justice under the Obama administration. Well, it is pretty clear from the investigations that have occurred that something rotten was happening at the leadership of the FBI. Just to listen to Mr. Strzok—and his protestations that there was no bias associated with those investigations are patently unbelievable. It is unbelievable, not credible.

So I understand that the Democratic leader wants to focus his attention on the President. That is his prerogative, and, indeed, he has been the leader of the anti-Trump resistance since President Trump was elected.

Many of us do disagree with the President’s assessment of the intelligence, as I have suggested. I firmly believe there is solid evidence of Russian meddling in the election. I think President Putin misrepresented the facts. I am not surprised by that given who he is and how he operates. As the Democratic leader said, as a former KGB colonel, he is accustomed to dissembling and distorting, manipulating information in a way that serves his purpose.

I think we should be absolutely clear. We all support the men and women who are the professionals who make up the intelligence community in this country, many of whom expose themselves to great danger, and, indeed, many have lost their lives trying to protect this country against adversaries around the world. I think the findings of the intelligence community assessment during the end of the Obama administration provides a roadmap to what the Russians did, as did the indictment of the 12 Russian GRU intelligence officials.

We better wake up. Rather than the blame game and pointing fingers, we better get ready for the next election, the midterm election in 2018.

I think there is a lot we can do together, but as long as this becomes a political, partisan, stop-Trump-at-all-costs effort, I don’t think we are going to make much progress.

I will conclude this part of my remarks by saying that I trust our intelligence community. I trust their assessment that there was Russian meddling in the election. But I also trust the investigation so far, which has shown absolutely no collusion with the Trump campaign and Russian intelligence activity leading up to the election. That is what I think has the President so spun up, because he feels as though this is an attack on him personally. I wish we could separate those two. But, indeed, our Democratic colleagues don’t want to separate them because they realize this is the best way to keep this story going for as long as they can through the next election and, who knows, through the next Presidential election as well.

## IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about this misguided effort to abolish ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This is the operational component of the Department of Homeland Security. We have seen this movement in hashtags on Instagram, on T-shirts. We have watched protestors who showed up in California when ICE agents were trying to investigate the trafficking of children. Can you imagine these protestors interfering with an investigation into the crime of human trafficking of children? But that is not all. Some of the House Democrats have introduced legislation to eliminate ICE.

Of course, any sensible person would tell you that eliminating ICE is reckless, which is why I recently introduced a resolution with 14 of our colleagues denouncing these radical calls in the strongest of terms. This is just reckless and naive, this “Abolish ICE” movement. It is a move that would be fundamentally irresponsible.

Based on one recent poll, close to 70 percent of the American people, when asked about it, opposed the idea—and for good reason. ICE was created, after all, in 2003 in response to the discovery that many of the 9/11 hijackers had exploited holes in our immigration enforcement and overstayed their tourist visas and attended flight schools without a proper visa. We know what happened on that terrible day, 9/11/2001. We know that hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals overstay their visas every year illegally. Without ICE, those unlawfully residing in our country, in violation of their visas, would be allowed to stay indefinitely. Is that what the “Abolish ICE” movement is about—eliminating enforcement of our immigration laws and allowing people who flout those laws to succeed in staying here in the United States in violation of those immigration laws?

Of course, abolishing ICE would mean ending all of the agency’s programs and functions. It would mean allowing