

What started as a debate on free speech and political autonomy morphed into a full indictment of the Chinese Communist Party's crimes against humanity, against the Uighurs in Xinjiang, in Tibet, and Inner Mongolia, and all across Mainland China.

Thanks to internet freedom efforts made possible by the Open Technology Fund, tweets and videos describing the Chinese Communist Party's intolerance of dissent escaped the Great Firewall and made its way into Western news feeds.

The spread of the coronavirus tore away the veil covering Beijing's corrupt relationship with the World Health Organization and other international organizations and revealed their scandalous coverup of the virus's origins—all that truth right on our phones, right on our iPads and computer screens and on every screen in the house.

Unfortunately, for the millions suffering under the horrors of communism, truth didn't win the day. The people with the most responsibility to speak up stayed silent because they were fearful of retaliation. It was too politically charged, too economically risky. Someone might take their criticisms the wrong way, and, well, we can't have that now, can we?

I know from personal experience what it is like to have the Chinese Communist Party and their allies retaliate against you. Once you speak up, you are going to get it from all sides.

Just last week, a member of the Chinese state media—for all intents and purposes, I would suggest this is a propaganda minister for the Chinese Communist Party. Well, he decided that he had had enough of what we are doing here in Washington to expose Chinese aggression and fired off a series of vile, sexist tweets while conspicuously avoiding the issue at hand. It sounds fairly familiar: Attack the person; attack the messenger.

The thing is, he was just mirroring the tactics used by his government. Beijing is all too happy to prey upon the ignorance of their massive online audience and encourage accusations of racism or xenophobia as the only acceptable responses to evidence documenting their own racist, repressive politics. That, right there, is how you end up with repressive regimes like the one in China gaining so much power on the global stage when those who should know better allow their adversaries to cow them into silence.

I appreciate the importance of diplomacy, but diplomacy is meaningless without consequences. Activists, by their very nature, rise and fall based on their willingness to speak truth to power when the most influential among us allow evil regimes to escape those consequences.

Today, I call on my colleagues to follow their example and use their work in this Chamber to speak truth to power about the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party. We no longer have

any excuse not to. If you want proof, pull out your phones and listen to what activists in Hong Kong, in Taiwan, and in Mainland China are telling you—or better yet, listen to what some of your colleagues are telling you.

Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong currently sits in jail for the crime of criticizing his government. I repeat this: Hong Kong activist, a young freedom fighter, Joshua Wong, is in jail because he criticized the Chinese Communist party. He criticized his government. His sentencing barely managed a blip on the radar here.

Another Hong Kong activist, Jimmy Lai, was denied bail during his own prosecution specifically because his online newspaper revealed the truths of the Chinese Communist Party's chokehold on their own people. The CCP cut off access to his corporate accounts and those of his employees. So much for Hong Kong's free press. Jimmy Lai and Joshua Wong live in Hong Kong.

In June, the Senate passed a resolution condemning the CCP's repression of speech and expression in Hong Kong. These protests are still happening. Authoritarian crackdowns are still happening. We must keep speaking about this.

In Xinjiang, CCP forces are systematically targeting and eliminating the Uighur Muslim population through mass surveillance, population control, and incarceration in internment camps. Yes, you heard me—internment camps. It should make your skin crawl to hear that today, in 2020, this is happening.

Last month, I joined my colleagues Senator CORNYN and Senator MENENDEZ in supporting a bipartisan resolution to finally recognize that what the Chinese Government is doing in Xinjiang constitutes a genocide.

If you are looking for a reason to start speaking out, I can't think of a better way to get started. Speak up on that. Support this resolution, which would not only urge the White House to take action against Beijing but also urge national governments and organizations to get their heads out of the sand and tear away, piece by piece, China's disastrous influence over the global political economy, which is highlighted by the success of the Communist Party's Belt and Road Initiative.

I will add that I was thrilled today with Secretary Pompeo's tweet regarding his once again reupping the countries of concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. China is on this list, as well they should be, as they continue to infringe on religious liberty, and they do engage in systematic, ongoing, egregious religious freedom violations. They are doing it every day, and the world is watching.

I tell you, I could monopolize this floor for the next week and lay out every opportunity we have to stand up for the cause of freedom and speak

truth to power about the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party.

Here is a white paper that I unveiled earlier this year. There are over 100 specific paths toward how we as a nation unraveled the relationship that we have right now with China. The paper is only 52 pages long. It is a short version. I encourage one and all to take a look at it and to think about how it is that we got to this point where an influential government, active in many major international bodies, including, as of next year, China being in the U.N. Human Rights Council—how can this government perpetrate a genocide against minorities and get away with it because of the appalling cowardice of those who bear witness and choose to do nothing.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum also be waived.

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

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent to start the vote now.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo, Mitt Romney, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Enzi	Murkowski
Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Blackburn	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Roberts
Braun	Grassley	Romney
Burr	Hawley	Rubio
Capito	Hoeven	Sasse
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Jones	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—6

Cardin	Loeffler	Rounds
Harris	Perdue	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, I stood in this same position and gave remarks to my colleagues about the importance of, even though we can't do everything, that we do something. It seems to be too often that the way the Senate has operated is that unless we can do everything everyone wants, we do nothing. I encouraged us to try to figure out what it is we can agree on and address that legislatively and save the issues we don't agree on for later.

The challenge that I presented was the circumstance of the consequences of COVID-19, the difficulties that Americans—Kansans—are facing, and the importance of our completing our work in regard to an additional response to try to help the economy and to make sure people are healthy and know that they are healthy.

We seem to be making progress in regard to that desire to address the needs of Americans. While my complaint or

concern 2 weeks ago was “we don't have to do everything, we can do something,” it appears that we are going to do something, which is really important.

Now, I would raise the issue of timing. It is very discouraging to me to return to Washington, DC, to learn that the continuing resolution, which expires on Friday, is to be extended until next Friday at a time in which Americans have little ability to wait, at least, to know what they are going to be able to expect.

Small businesses, individuals, employees, employers all need the certainty, and every day that we are unable to accomplish what we can agree on is another day in which those Americans, those workers, those businessowners don't know what they face. Christmas ought to be a time, the holiday season ought to be a time for expectations and joy and comfort, and yet what we are doing here by this continued delay is creating uncertainty which creates great challenges.

The mental health and well-being of Kansans and Americans is at stake here. Again, my guess is that whatever we could agree on next week, we could agree on this week, so I would encourage my colleagues and me to redouble our efforts, not only to do what we can do, but to do it in a timely enough fashion that people get the benefit.

I think of those who work in hospitals in Kansas, those who care for people who are suffering from the symptoms of COVID. We need to make certain that we provide them the necessary personal protection equipment; that we need to have the necessary testing; that every hospital, every clinic, every doctor has the resources necessary to care for those who are ill today. That is something that can't wait.

When it comes to the economy, too many businesses, retail establishments, motels, restaurants, venues, theaters, the uncertainty that we are creating that every day goes by in which they don't know whether Congress is going to respond to their needs is a day in which we may lose another business, we may lose another person's employment.

The request is that we move more quickly than what we have done to date now, that we seem to be zeroing in on a compromise agreement, a bipartisan agreement. That is a piece of good news, but every day that we delay the outcome, the vote, the support the American people and Kansans need is a day in which more harm is done. It is a time in which uncertainty exists. While we continue to have our debates and discussions, that uncertainty is creating not only economic problems but potentially loss of life as well.

This place is slow to respond, and I would encourage us to be quicker in our response than what we have been to date. People are struggling, and they need our help.

I also would say that too many Kansans have died—people that I have

known—have died from COVID. This is a very damaging disease. I would encourage Kansans and Americans to do the personally responsible things and protect themselves, to wear the masks, to socially distance. We cannot afford another shutdown.

Every day that goes by in which we are not providing the opportunities for businesses to stay open and employees to be employed, particularly in rural America—the places, Mr. President, that you and I come from—if we lose a business to COVID, that business is unlikely to return. If we don't provide the necessary support for hospitals and healthcare delivery systems—there isn't a hospital in Kansas, if it closes its doors today because of COVID, is going to open tomorrow when COVID is behind us.

The deaths that I mentioned, in many instances, have been the community leaders, the people who have made a difference in communities across Kansas. Every life has value, and every life has meaning. We want this death to end.

For purposes of our economy and purposes of life and death, it is time for the U.S. Senate to act—not another week delay, not another 2 weeks of unknowing—but let's reach our conclusion, let's come together and find solutions and provide hope to my constituents in Kansas, yours in Arkansas, and the people of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

REMEMBERING ENSIGN JOSHUA KALEB WATSON

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, 1 year ago yesterday, on December 6, 2019, a terrorist attack on the Naval Air Station Pensacola killed three American servicemen.

While it is appropriate and it has been done to honor each of these men, I rise today with a solemn purpose of honoring and commemorating the life, service, and patriotism of one in particular: Navy ENS Joshua Kaleb Watson of Enterprise, AL, whose promising life and career were tragically cut short in the terrorist attack a year and 1 day ago yesterday.

Kaleb was posthumously honored last Friday, receiving the Purple Heart in a ceremony in Pensacola. I really regret that I could not go and that I was unable to join his family, but there was also a wreath-laying ceremony at Building 633 where Kaleb was shot and a candlelight vigil there last night. I know that all were solemn occasions for the Navy, for the family, and for America.

Kaleb was a rising star. A recent graduate of the Naval Academy, Kaleb had dreamed of becoming a Navy pilot and had reported to Pensacola for flight training the week of Veterans Day. Kaleb was described as a natural leader, a person who put others first and strived to bring out the best in them.

At the Naval Academy, Kaleb was a small arms instructor, wrestling coach,