

Instead of producing American energy, Democrats want to produce excuses, one after another.

At the Democrat press conference, the majority leader said: “The American people didn’t send us here to point fingers and blame each other.” They ought to point fingers at themselves. That is exactly what the Democrat leader and the President have done for the last 15 months since the day Joe Biden took office. They blamed inflation on coronavirus, then they blamed it on economic growth, then they blamed it on corporations, they blamed it on ports and shipping companies, they blamed it on Vladimir Putin, everyone except themselves who are the cause of the problem.

They will blame anyone, as long as they don’t have to change their radical and reckless policies. But they won’t deal with the problem. Right now, Democrats basically point to the fact that they are determined to give the American people more of the same, and it is the same things that have brought Joe Biden’s approval numbers to an all-time low—on the inflation, on economy, on the cost of energy—alltime historic lows, for a President who should know better but is following the lead of the liberal radical left.

So people are going to be facing more inflation, more high energy costs. And it now costs so much to fill up a tank of gasoline; it is over a hundred dollars to fill up, and I saw that repeatedly across Wyoming last weekend.

This is the same level of anxiety for hard-working families at the end of every month when the paychecks don’t keep up. On Sunday, just this past Sunday, the cost of diesel hit an alltime high. Not just a 40-year high like we have for inflation, an alltime high for diesel fuel.

Diesel prices have doubled since Joe Biden took office. Higher diesel prices means it will cost more to transport goods to market. Food prices are up; everything that one buys at the market is up. No matter how bad it gets, Democrats refuse to change course.

Joe Biden continues to attack American energy and American energy workers. Right now, Joe Biden’s administration are blocking oil and gas leases at 80 percent of the available Federal lands. There are thousands of drilling requests that are in limbo, which is where Joe Biden has put them.

He has done everything possible, you would think, to undermine investment in American energy. Told the banks, don’t lend. Told businesses, don’t invest. An attack on direct—on jobs and affordable energy.

If Democrats were really serious about lowering energy prices, they would stop their war on American energy. We need to unleash American energy, not keep it in the ground. Look, Democrats remain the party of higher costs, the party of expensive regulations, the party of high taxes, and the party of greater reliance on foreign countries.

Working families cannot afford the Democratic agenda. People feel stuck or stressed. They are squeezed by inflation. They are squeezed by high energy prices. They have to make decisions about how they drive and how they eat and what they eat and how they live.

The Democratic policies have brought us all of this. We need to replace the Democratic policies; and come November, we are going to replace the Democrats in the House and in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

UKRAINE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this morning to express concern for the people of Ukraine and the hundreds of millions who are going to bed hungry across the globe.

Every day since that terrible day, February 24, we have watched in horror as Vladimir Putin and his army, his forces, killed innocent Ukrainians, over and over and over again like nothing—nothing—we have seen since World War II.

Russian forces continue to besiege and shell Ukrainian cities like Mariupol, where over the last two months, civilians have lived in bunkers under perpetual fire. These are civilians in those bunkers.

Only yesterday, 130 civilians managed to escape the battered Azovstal steel plant. Describing the last several months, one evacuee said:

You can’t imagine how scary it is when you sit in the shelter, in a wet and damp basement which is bouncing, shaking. We were praying to God that missiles fly over our shelter, because if it hit the shelter, all of us would be done.

Sadly, 200 more Ukrainian civilians have been unable to evacuate, even as Russian forces began storming the steel mill just yesterday. So our prayers are with them and the remaining brave Ukrainian fighters continuing to hold on to this plant.

But atrocities continue across all of Ukraine. In Donetsk yesterday, three civilians were killed on their way to collecting water—collecting water—for their families.

The United States, of course, must continue to help Ukraine fight against Mr. Putin and his forces. Mr. Putin is the incarnation of evil. It is as clear as any debate could be.

The good news is, countries all over the world are unified against him. But we have a long way to go. Now, I and so many others across the House and the Senate strongly supported the appropriation that Congress made back in March—\$13.6 billion in emergency appropriations to support Ukraine, and I stand by President Biden’s recent \$33 billion request to help Ukraine defend itself over the long term.

Unfortunately, in that first number, the \$13.6 billion, the good news is we

had support for that in both parties. But I have to say for the record: Not enough support on the Republican side. Here in the Senate, 31 Republicans voted against the \$13.6 billion. And when you add up the Senate Republicans voting against the \$13.6 billion in the spending bill and add them to the House Republicans, which is, obviously, a much bigger number, it is more than 200 Members of the Republican Party in the U.S. Congress voted against every single penny of the \$13.6 billion for Ukraine.

So I hope—I hope—when it comes to the \$33 billion that I hope we will be able to pass—but I am sure it will be a number at least comparable to that. But whatever the number is for the people of Ukraine, I hope that we will get unanimous support in the U.S. Congress.

I hope we won’t see more than 200 Members of Republicans in the Congress voting against the people of Ukraine. This is not a difficult choice. You are either on one side or the other.

I said Mr. Putin is the incarnation of evil—he is. The good news is, we have another choice. The other choice is Mr. Zelenskyy, the people of Ukraine, and those brave fighters in Ukraine. They are the personification of all that we claim to stand for when we talk about democracy.

This isn’t a moment to theorize or to talk about democracy in glowing terms without taking actions. They are doing the fighting on the battlefield. The least that we can do is vote the right way. That is the power you have as a Member of Congress. House, Senate, Democrat, Republican or Independent, you have the power to vote. And I hope that we will have unanimous support for the \$33 billion that the President has asked for.

Now, what will that funding entail? I won’t go through all of it, but this funding will include \$20.4 billion in additional security and military assistance for Ukraine. It is important to put that into context, so it is basically 20 of the 33 will be for security and military assistance. That is on top of what has already been appropriated just since the battle—the war in Ukraine started when Russia invaded.

With President Biden’s leadership and with a lot of support in the Congress, we have been able to provide billions of dollars just on the military and security assistance, not to mention the humanitarian support, the sanctions, and the unified approach that so many countries around the world have taken.

But we have a lot more to do, and in my judgment, the \$33 billion won’t be enough. We are going to be back at it probably in a few months providing more. But at a minimum, we have got to get this done for the people of Ukraine. Part of that appropriation will be the replenishing of donated NATO weapons and equipment.

This help, in total—all of this security assistance and other humanitarian support—will be critical to Ukraine’s

ability to prevail—to prevail—over Russian forces through the summer and the fall. We must continue to provide all of the artillery, the anti-tank, the anti-air weapons, and air defense systems and other capabilities that Ukraine can use to block Russian authoritarianism and support the Ukrainian people. However, regardless of how much support the United States, NATO, and other allies and partners provide, we must remember that nothing we do—nothing we do—is comparable to the awesome sacrifice for freedom and democracy that Ukrainians are now making every day when they give their lives—they give their lives in this war—and have their own families shattered in the process.

They are upholding—the people of Ukraine, those brave fighters on the battlefield every day, every week, every month now, those Ukrainians are upholding democracy, not just for themselves, not just for our country, but for the entire free world.

There are, of course, other consequences to this war. The war has already driven over 13 million Ukrainians from their homes. These Ukrainians, who are either refugees going to another country or internally displaced within Ukraine but are outside of their homes, that number is equal to the entire population—roughly equivalent, 13 million, to the entire population of my home State of Pennsylvania. Just imagine that, 13 million people being displaced. And, unfortunately, it doesn't seem like that will be the end.

So I want to commend the European Union and Ukrainian neighbors in the region for their warm welcome to such an unprecedented refugee flow from Ukraine. Now, recently, just two weeks ago, traveling through Italy, Georgia, and France, I saw everyday Italians, Georgians, Frenchmen and French-women opening their hearts and their homes to Ukrainian refugees, not to mention the people of Poland, who have done so much, and so many others.

Just one example, in Italy, faith-based nonprofits like Sant'Egidio that we had time to meet with on our trip have led the way in providing support to those in need.

I also commend the administration's work to support these refugees across Europe and those remaining in Ukraine, much of that work funded by part of the \$13.6 billion that Congress appropriated in March.

FOOD SECURITY

Mr. President, let me move to another topic, but it is directly related to what we just talked about: food security. Our work on the overall strategy, as it relates to the people of Ukraine and protecting democracy, is far from complete.

The world has not yet felt the full effect—the full brunt—of the global effects of Mr. Putin's unprovoked, unlawful, and certainly unjustified war. While millions of Ukrainians have already become refugees, or internally

displaced people, there are food shortages in more than one-third of the country. By the end of the year, tens of millions across the globe also will face immediate danger from hunger.

So this is a crisis for the people of Ukraine on a whole host of fronts, obviously, but it is also a food security crisis for the world at the same time.

The reason for that immediate danger that people face right now being unable to find the food that they need to survive is because of this invasion, as well as, obviously, the terrible impact the pandemic has had.

As a breadbasket of the world, before the war, Ukraine fed over 400 million people across the globe, and the greater Black Sea area exported more than 12 percent of the food calories that are traded worldwide. The war has cut off, cut off, these supplies while also raising fuel and transportation costs.

There is less food to go around, and it costs more to get food to those who need it the most.

This comes on top of the COVID-19 pandemic, as I mentioned, which increased hunger and complicated supply chains and climate change effects like severe droughts and floods.

It also costs more to grow food, as Russia previously dominated the world's fertilizer markets. Today, both food and fertilizer prices have skyrocketed to higher than ever before, and the World Food Programme estimates that 878 million people across 92 countries of the world do not have adequate food on their table—878 million people.

Over 276 million people now face acute food insecurity, meaning that they are in immediate danger of not being able to find their next meal. So they are the ones in the most trouble right now all across the world—276 million. It is not all the folks who are hungry and have a food security crisis but those who are in immediate danger.

Due to Putin's horrific war, by the end of 2022, another 47 million people will likely face those same dangers—47 million people. That will mean that around the world, almost as many people as live in the entire United States will face immediate danger from hunger. Most of these people live outside of Ukraine in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, where any further price shock may put entire communities at risk.

I see the distinguished majority leader. Does he want me to suspend?

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I thank the always gracious, always thoughtful, always perspicacious, always persistent—and many other good adjectives—Senator from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Now, Mr. President, there is only one way—only one way—to describe the

Supreme Court's reported decision to overturn Roe v. Wade: an abomination.

Such a decision, if it comes to pass, would be an utter abomination. Women across America would suffer irreparable harm to their rights, their health, and their dignity. It would go down as one of the worst and most damaging opinions that the Court has handed down in modern history, and the Court would suffer a mortal blow to its reputation that I fear will last forever.

Yesterday, I pledged that Senate Democrats will act on legislation to codify Roe into law. It is vital that we act quickly because this is no longer an abstract exercise. This is as real as it gets, America—as real as it gets.

Every single American is going to see where every single Senator stands on protecting a woman's right to choose. And rest assured, Americans will be watching.

Now, we must be clear. This week's draft decision didn't come out of nowhere. It didn't materialize in a vacuum. Indeed, the blame for the end of Roe lies primarily right across the aisle here with Senate Republicans.

The Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe would never have been possible without Leader McCONNELL and Senate Republicans spending years packing our courts with hard-right judges, judges who came from a list under the Trump years that the Federalist Society approved. And the Federalist Society's purpose, when it was put into action, from what I have read, is to repeal Roe. And the Republicans on this side of the aisle, right there, were willing—willing—accomplices in that deed.

Let me say it again. The Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe would have never been possible without Leader McCONNELL and Senate Republicans spending years packing our courts with hard-right judges.

Now, Republicans are twisting themselves into pretzels, trying to distract from this truth. Yesterday, Leader McCONNELL said that the real story was somehow the leaks and not the end of Roe.

Can you believe that? The leaks are more important than the rights of 100 million American women? Give me a break.

And when Leader McCONNELL evidently was asked at his press conference yesterday: Are you glad Roe would be repealed, he wouldn't even answer that, even though he had worked years to do it, because they know where history is going. They know where the American people are. They know they are on the wrong side of both so they are trying to "low key" it.

Republicans have spent decades trying to achieve the end of Roe, and now that they are about to succeed, they are flailing around, talking about a leak instead of owning up to their own actions. We won't let them. We know, all of us, why Republicans are spending