

China controls the supply chain for the minerals needed to build the electric cars and the batteries. But we are not allowed to mine for it here—no. His Department of Interior shut down mining in Minnesota for critical minerals. He is making China richer and America poorer.

Joe Biden is turning to China, not American workers, for the critical minerals needed for these cars. Bidenomics is selling out to communist China.

America isn't blind to the blunder of Bidenomics. Here is a quote from a recent CNN story. It says:

Most Americans are convinced the economy is in bad shape, and they blame the president.

A new poll from the Associated Press and the National Opinion Research Center found that 64 percent of Americans—almost two-thirds of Americans—disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling the economy. A Harvard-Harris poll said that 74 percent of Americans say their financial situation is not improving under this administration. Yet you see Joe Biden touring the country, and Democrats giving victory speeches. Bidenomics is ravaging our wallets, wrecking our savings, and ruining our economy, and the Democrats are saying: Great.

Senate Republicans have solutions to get America back on track, and it starts with spending less and reducing redtape and unleashing American energy.

As the top Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I will tell you that unleashing American energy is my top priority. To accomplish that, we need to pass true permitting reform. Our plan is going to make life more affordable by making it easier to produce every type of American energy.

We will need traditional, reliable forms of energy like oil, coal, and natural gas for years and years to come in spite of what the President may foolishly believe. We also need to produce more energy from resources like nuclear, wind, and solar. We need it all.

Unleashing American energy with permitting reform is the key that unlocks American dominance again. This is what we need to do to reverse the damage, the destruction, and the devastation of Joe Biden and Bidenomics.

Bidenomics is a grim reality for too many people in Wyoming and across the country. Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and Washington Democrats cannot keep ignoring the pain they are causing. Nobody can afford another bad day of bad Bidenomics.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I join my colleagues on the floor to talk about Joe Biden's economy.

Over the past few weeks, the President has traveled across our great country. He has been giving speeches

on what he calls Bidenomics. He is bragging about how good our economy is.

I have got news for the President: The American people aren't buying what you are selling.

Two-thirds of the American people disapprove of him on the economy—two-thirds. Three out of four Americans say our country is on the wrong track. Most economists think we are going to have a recession within the next year. We all hope that doesn't happen.

Nevertheless, I agree with the American people. Bidenomics has been a disaster, a complete disaster, for the people of this country.

When Joe Biden took office, this economy was ready to take off. We were opening back up after the pandemic, but obviously Joe Biden took credit for that too.

The Congressional Budget Office said the economy didn't need any stimulus—no more money. We were expected to fully recover within just a few months. Guess what. Our President didn't listen. He signed the biggest stimulus bill in history. Joe Biden spent \$2 trillion that we didn't need. It wasn't paid for. We didn't have the money, but we approved it anyway, in this room. That \$2 trillion is going straight to the national debt—\$32 trillion. Embarrassing.

Even the Democrats' own experts warned them not to do this. President Obama's economic adviser, Jason Furman, said:

I don't know any economist who is advocating for a spending bill that size.

Bill Clinton's Treasury Secretary, Larry Summers, said it would cause inflation. Well, sure enough, a month after the Democrats passed their spending bill, inflation started going up, and now prices are 14 percent higher than they were when President Biden took office—14 percent. Gas prices are still up by more than a dollar a gallon since this President took office. The price of diesel is raising costs for farmers in my State of Alabama and across America, and they are struggling. In total, inflation has cost the typical American family more than \$8,000 annually since Joe Biden took office.

Last summer, Joe Biden and the Democrats started spending trillions in taxpayer money again. Didn't learn a lesson. It was an election year, and they must have thought it was going to help them in the election.

As of today, Joe Biden has authorized more than 4 trillion—that is not billion; that is trillion—dollars in spending. That is more money than we spent in World War II. Again, this is after the Congressional Budget Office said we didn't need any stimulus, and again, it was money that we didn't have. We didn't have it. It is no wonder we have had the highest inflation in 40 years, and it is no wonder Joe Biden is the least popular President since Jimmy Carter.

Record inflation has caused the fastest increase in interest rates in 40 years, and it is self-inflicted. The American people didn't do that; this city did that. The interest rate on a mortgage has doubled since Joe Biden took office—doubled. More and more young people are giving up on the goal of owning their own home because they can't afford it.

Last summer, Joe Biden also raised taxes on nearly every person in this country. He wants 85,000 more IRS agents to shake people down because they need the money. They need the money to help pay this debt down, but they are going to take it away from the American people. That should never happen.

So now we are paying the price for inflation, and we are paying more because of higher taxes.

Last fall, there was a Gallup poll that showed that a record number of people have given up on the American dream—given up. That is what everybody wants to come to this country for, is the American dream.

Folks, it ain't here anymore. It is gone.

According to the poll, the majority of Americans do not think their kids will have a better standard of living than they had when they were growing up.

Joe Biden shouldn't be bragging right now. Joe Biden ought to be on an apology tour across this country because it is embarrassing what we have done to the debt and what we have done to inflation and prices all over the country. He ought to apologize to the American people for robbing them of thousands of dollars that they worked for, that they shouldn't have to send to this place to spend when they don't need it to be spent. He ought to apologize to the people who are giving up on the American dream.

Two-thirds of the American people disapprove of the handling of Joe Biden's economy. And I agree with the American people. Bidenomics has been a total disaster, and it will go down in history. It will go down in history. It will be remembered, and it will be studied—how not to run an economy. Totally wrong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

NATO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I got home last night or at least got back to Washington last night at midnight after completing a whirlwind trip of 3 days to Lithuania. I went there in a bipartisan delegation to be present for the NATO summit. It was a historic meeting. President Biden was there and the leaders of many countries from around the world—not just the NATO allies but, for instance, the President of the Republic of South Korea and the Prime Minister from Australia. What brought them all together was a historic event.

The NATO alliance, which has been in existence for over 70 years, was created after World War II to bring peace

to at least the European and American region of the world. It has been successful because we gathered nations—now 31—together in common purpose to fight off anyone who would attack us, to let those who are thinking of attacking us know the heavy price they would pay.

So the message from Vilnius, Lithuania, to Vladimir Putin this week is not a good one for him. The message is that the NATO alliance is bigger, stronger, and more unified than it ever has been in history. In a way, it is kind of a surprise. It wasn't that long ago that the previous President, Donald Trump, raised enough questions among leaders in the world that they wondered if there would be a NATO. Trump, of course, was a close friend—I still can't understand why—of Vladimir Putin's, often finding him so admirable and praising him for his crazy politics. Yet, when it came to the NATO alliance, President Trump was very critical—to the point where, when Joseph Biden became President of the United States and started meeting with world leaders, the first question they asked was, well, what is the position of the United States when it comes to this common security alliance? Biden assured them that it was strong and would continue to be, and he has proven it.

What happened in Lithuania at the NATO summit this week is a tribute to leadership by many people, not the least of whom is our President. He came together and understood that we are stronger when we stand together, and we saw it in Vilnius. The situation that we witnessed yesterday was historic.

My mother was born in that little country of Lithuania many years ago and immigrated to the United States at the age of 2. I have been back many times. My first visit was in 1979 before I was elected to Congress. I am glad I went. It was good for me to see what Lithuania looked like in Soviet times and to see the sharp contrast today with modern Lithuania.

It is just plain historic that a NATO summit would be held in that same former Soviet socialist republic, this year, 2023. The summit was hosted in Lithuania because of that country's extraordinary journey from Soviet tyranny to a thriving democratic voice.

Knowing Putin's tyranny all too well, Lithuania has been an outspoken supporter of Ukraine despite the invasion by Putin, as well as a supporter of the exiled voices from Belarus and Russia and has stood firm against Chinese economic bullying resulting from growing trade with Taiwan.

It brought back to mind what I witnessed over the years. That former Soviet socialist republic was literally the first republic to step forward and say: We are breaking with Moscow. We want our own independence.

They paid a heavy price: pressure, killing, invasion—all of the things which Gorbachev and Soviet leaders

could conjure up to try to stop this little country from succeeding. But they failed. Lithuania is a proud nation now, and I am glad it hosted this NATO summit.

We saw at the summit an amazing array of international leaders, including Asian allies like Australia and South Korea as well as our own President and Secretary of State Tony Blinken. What struck me was the sustained resolve and common purpose in defeating Russia in their war with Ukraine. Our NATO allies, many former captives of the Soviet Union themselves, have enduring memories of war and are determined to not allow Russia's imperial actions of today.

I want to recognize President Joe Biden's clear-eyed vision and leadership in galvanizing and reinvigorating the critical NATO alliance and its support for Ukraine.

The chairs of our journey, the NATO observers from the Senate, were JEANNE SHAHEEN of New Hampshire and THOM TILLIS of North Carolina. They did an admirable job, and I was glad to be part of their effort.

We must never forget that NATO was born from the ashes of two horrific wars in Europe, with many newer members eventually joining after decades of Soviet oppression.

Despite Putin's warped paranoia to the contrary, NATO is not a threat to Russia, but it will defend every inch of member territory from Russia or any other such attack. The alliance is still growing, with this summit's newest member, Finland, and now Sweden on the way.

Putin's colossal strategic blunder in Ukraine has cost the lives of more than 100,000 Russian soldiers, and it lowered Russia's standing in the world. Much to his disappointment, Putin's senseless invasion in fact strengthened and expanded the NATO alliance, including along hundreds of miles of Russian border.

There were a few other key summit outcomes—notably, further security guarantees to Ukraine and an easier pathway for Ukraine to ultimately be part of NATO, which I hope it will be.

I believe Ukraine's future rests ultimately within NATO, and, until then, the United States and our allies must continue to support its defense against Russian aggression.

I think Lithuanian President Nausėda argued this well—that the Europeans understand that Ukraine's fight is their fight. That also is my feeling and of most of us here in the Senate of both political parties. Ukraine's fight for democracy and sovereignty is our fight too.

In Vilnius we also met with Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya. Her husband Sergei was jailed after trying to run in an election against Belarusian strongman Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the last dictator in Europe. So she ran in his place, and probably won. But with Lukashenka refusing to honor the elec-

tion results, she tragically had to flee to neighboring Lithuania.

Her country has become a puppet state of Putin, even allowing Russia to move nuclear weapons into its territory. Countless Belarusians have been jailed for demanding basic freedoms, and yet she and so many others heroically continue their struggle, including some who were fighting to help Ukraine.

This poster shows two jailed Belarusian journalists who worked for Radio Free Europe, which is doing heroic quality journalism in the region: Andrey Kuznechyk and Ihar Losik. Both were jailed by Lukashenka for simply being reporters. They and all the country's political prisoners should be released, period.

I also hope the administration will soon announce a new special envoy for Belarus, and I plan to work with my Senate colleagues to update and strengthen the Belarus Democracy Act.

I want to close with a message to Vladimir Putin from the summit. The NATO alliance is stronger than ever, and we are united in our determination to stop your ruthless invasion of Ukraine.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Madam President, yesterday the Associated Press published a series of articles detailing a range of ethical failures by the Supreme Court of the United States. The reports detailed Justices' involvement in fundraising at colleges and universities, the use of Supreme Court staff members to push sales of books, and donor-funded teaching positions that doubled as all-expense paid vacations.

The Supreme Court is now in recess, at home with their families and traveling on vacation. I wish them many sunny days. But even if the sun is shining, there is still a shadow over the Supreme Court.

For several months now, there has been a steady flow of reports documenting how the members of our Nation's highest Court have failed to live up to the public trust that they have been given.

Justice Clarence Thomas has traveled the world on billionaire Harlan Crow's yacht and private jet. Crow bought the home of Justice Thomas' mother and allowed her to continue living there rent-free. He even paid for the education of Justice Thomas' minor relative. None of this—none of this—was included in Justice Thomas' disclosure forms.

Then we learned that Justice Samuel Alito took an all-expense-paid, luxury fishing trip to Alaska. He traveled there on a private jet of billionaire hedge fund manager Paul Singer, and he stayed at the fishing lodge of conservative donor Robin Arkley. Justice Samuel Alito didn't disclose any of it to the public. In fact, he dismissed one trip on a private jet saying that it didn't really count because, in fact, the seat on the jet would have been empty if he didn't sit in it—what an argument from a Supreme Court Justice.