

This is not just about Ukrainian security, but as President Zelenskyy reminded us, it is about American security, as well, because a victorious Putin would be an emboldened Putin.

What is the point of cutting off support now, when we are at a turning point in the war, when we have invested a large amount of resources to get to this turning point? To be sure, there are some on the hard right who say we should abandon Ukraine and negotiate with Putin. It is ironic that the hard right, which historically opposed communism, now openly flirts with autocrats like Putin.

Giving Putin what he wants, for America to abandon Ukraine—that is what Putin wants—would be a terrible, terrible mistake and one I think that would come back to haunt us more rapidly and quickly than people believe.

Now is not the time to take our foot off the gas when it comes to helping Ukraine. Turning our backs would make the world less safe for American democracy.

I commend President Zelenskyy for his leadership during this unprecedented moment in his country's history. I thank him for his visit. I thank him for his courage. I thank him for his steadfastness. And I will keep working to ensure we continue supporting the Ukrainian people.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the CR, an ominous case of déjà vu is playing out this week in the House of Representatives. A national crisis is around the corner. The solution demands bipartisanship, but Speaker MCCARTHY is wasting precious time catering to the hard, hard MAGA right. Catering to the hard right didn't work during the default crisis, and it will not work here in the shutdown crisis.

It has been a troublesome, vexing week for the House of Representatives. A few days ago, House Republicans released what they called the deal on a CR but which, in reality, read like a House Freedom Caucus screed. It called for a devastating 8-percent cut on virtually all nondefense spending. It would have gutted law enforcement funding, border protection, nutrition benefits, and so much more. But that still wasn't extreme enough for MAGA Republicans.

The House GOP's latest proposals are even more extreme, call for even greater cuts, and stand even less of a chance of passing the U.S. Senate. House Republicans are still trying to appease the most hard-right elements of their conference. It is almost as if a small handful are deciding what the whole body of 435 Members should do. It makes no sense. And the hard right, many of them, publicly say they want the government to shut down, despite the fact that it would hurt so many.

So that is what seems the Republican leadership is doing, instead of pursuing the one path we all know will work: bi-

partisanship. Instead of decreasing the chances of a shutdown, Speaker MCCARTHY is actually increasing it by wasting time on extremist proposals that everyone knows—he knows—cannot become law.

Let me say that again. Instead of decreasing the chance of a shutdown, Speaker MCCARTHY is actually increasing it by wasting time on extremist proposals that cannot become law.

In the Senate, many of us are united in the need for more Ukraine aid, but the hard-right proposals in the House fail to provide any. In the Senate, only an agreement that can get votes from both parties will be able to pass, but the hard-right proposals have all been drafted with zero Democratic input and zero effort to even appear bipartisan.

So for all the efforts Speaker MCCARTHY has spent on trying to find something that makes MAGA Republicans happy, there is no scenario where we avoid a shutdown without a bipartisan agreement. If the Speaker continues down on the path he is on, the odds of a shutdown, sadly, go up, and Americans will know that the responsibility of a shutdown will be on the Republicans' hands.

#### TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on TPS, yesterday, the Biden administration announced they will designate temporary protection status for Venezuela, giving migrants from that country relief from removal and the ability to get work authorization. This decision will affect more than half of the newly arrived asylum seekers in New York.

The administration's announcement is welcome news and one many of us in the New York congressional delegation have been calling on for months. I wrote to Secretaries Blinken and Mayorkas, in July, that country conditions in Venezuela clearly met the criteria for TPS. So this is a good step forward.

TPS will give much needed relief for New York systems currently straining to support newly arrived immigrants. It is going to save New York taxpayer dollars, and it will allow migrants from Venezuela who are seeking asylum to find temporary employment, support themselves and their families, contribute to our economy, and reduce the shelter burden that New York is now undergoing.

So this is very, very welcome news. Many of these migrants can now, hopefully, get closer to finding work and finding shelter, which they need, and I thank the Biden administration for taking this step.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks, followed by Senator ERNST for 3 minutes, prior to the scheduled rollcall votes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

#### CHINA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, I was proud to welcome President Zelenskyy to the Capitol. I was glad our colleagues had an opportunity to hear from him firsthand and ask questions about the state of Ukraine's counteroffensive.

At the risk of repeating myself, American support for Ukraine is not charity. It is an investment in our own direct interests, not least because degrading Russia's military power helps to deter our primary strategic adversary, China.

As I have discussed this week, competition with China is a global proposition. But increasingly, the Biden administration's approach to the PRC reflects a faulty assessment of the challenge this competition presents.

A few weeks ago, the Secretary of Commerce visited Beijing to tend the soft power of American businesses in China. Unfortunately, the PRC had already targeted Secretary Raimondo with hard power, successfully stealing her official email in a cyber attack just weeks earlier.

To the extent that economic relations with China are deteriorating, it is because on President Xi's watch, Americans and other foreign businesses are facing a state that increasingly expropriates companies, steals intellectual property, welds workers inside of apartment buildings, and forces business leaders to attend communist indoctrination sessions.

So the Biden administration is uninterested in negotiating trade deals with our allies and partners. But it seems desperate to double down on trade with Communist China.

PRC officials publicly mocked Secretary Raimondo's efforts as "doomed to fail" and vowed that "China will never let down individual vigilance because of a few 'beautiful words' from the U.S."

This is hardly the only time the Biden administration has tilted at windmills, literally and figuratively. Remember special climate envoy John Kerry's own recent trip to Beijing. He sought common ground on green energy goals with a nation that publicly pledged not to stop increasing carbon

emissions for the better part of a decade.

Unsurprisingly, our former colleague failed to secure a meeting with President Xi or his foreign minister. Perhaps, as I have discussed before, the CCP had already made that latter official disappear.

China is America's single greatest strategic adversary. The PRC is not inclined to do America or the West any favors. And political relations with Beijing have declined not because of insufficient economic ties but because of China's concerted efforts to intimidate its neighbors, spy on our communications, steal our technology, and undermine global free markets.

The sooner the Biden Administration accepts that reality, the sooner the United States can engage more deeply with allies and partners who share our interests in preserving the peace.

Russia's escalation against Ukraine has taught allies in Europe a valuable lesson about the dangers of economic overreliance. Views are changing across Europe as our allies take a new look at the nature of the dictatorship in Beijing and its friendship without limits with Moscow. The German foreign minister, for example, has publicly warned against replacing dependence on Russian gas with new economic dependence on the PRC.

Asian allies have long been concerned with the PRC's growing assertiveness. They understand that Russia is a Pacific nation with significant air and naval presence in the Far East.

Americans who focus single-mindedly on the Indo-Pacific would do well to consider Russia's own military power in that region. Just last month, the Russian and Chinese navies conducted a joint patrol off the coast of Alaska, the largest such operation in anyone's memory.

These revisionist powers are not going to go away. They will not be classified by economic envoys. Strategic competition will continue to test global interests and reach.

It is time to work more closely with friends and allies. It is time to invest more seriously in hard power and industrial capacity. It is time for the Biden administration to prioritize actions over words.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, the Biden administration announced yesterday that it is seeking new recruits in its war on affordable and reliable American energy to fill the ranks of a new program called American Climate Corps.

While the administration works overtime to freeze sensible development like energy pipelines, its latest initiative would, essentially, set up a taxpayer-funded pipeline for turning climate activists into climate bureaucrats.

Now, President Biden's nostalgia for FDR's New Deal is already well-docu-

mented. So setting aside the absurdity of Washington Democrats' fixation with the Green New Deal, it would be hard to imagine an economic moment less well-suited to a new Depression-era work program.

This isn't the early 1930s, when the American people were up against high unemployment and low inflation. In fact, what the Democrats' runaway spending has dumped on working families today is just the opposite. For 2 years now, we have historic inflation and a record labor shortage.

This is such a profoundly tone-deaf idea it couldn't even earn the support of the President's own party here in the Senate during votes on Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act last year. Not a single one of our colleagues joined Senator SANDERS in voting for his amendment to create a climate work project on the taxpayers' dime.

Apparently, that hasn't deterred President Biden or the leftwing activists behind the wheel of his administration's energy policies.

As working families struggle to afford gas, electricity, and groceries, the advice from wealthy blue State liberals is, apparently, to shell out for an expensive electric car and foot the bill for the so-called Climate Corps.

There is no Hoover Dam or Lincoln Tunnel on the other side of this nonsense spending, just Potemkin jobs and a new make-work program when there is plenty of work to go around.

Activists are calling it climate justice. But it doesn't sound like justice to the working families trying to get by President Biden's watch.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General, Gen. Randy A. George.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

##### NOMINATION OF GENERAL RANDY A. GEORGE

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about my dear friend and native Iowan, GEN Randy A. George, before we vote on his nomination to be the next Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

As I said in the Armed Services Committee, I believe General George is the right man for this critical job. General George grew up in Alden, IA, a town with just over 700 residents. He joined the Army straight out of high school and was later commissioned at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

General George is a decorated war fighter with extensive combat service, including in the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the war in Afghanistan.

He has been instrumental in leading our great Army, and I am excited to see him confirmed to be the Chief of Staff of the Army.

As an Army veteran myself, I have full confidence that he will continue to modernize the Army and maintain our highly trained and lethal force to fight and win our Nation's wars.

General George is a hard-working public servant who knows the needs of our soldiers and their families. He, too, is a great family man. And I would like to thank his wife and his West Point classmate Patty and their two children, Grant and Andy, for their selfless commitment and support over the years.

I firmly believe that General George's qualifications, record, and character—and, of course, his great home State of Iowa—make him the right nominee to serve in this important role.

I yield the floor.

##### VOTE ON GEORGE NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the George nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Ex.]

##### YEAS—96

Baldwin	Cardin	Duckworth
Barrasso	Carper	Durbin
Bennet	Casey	Ernst
Blackburn	Cassidy	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Collins	Fischer
Booker	Coons	Gillibrand
Boozman	Cornyn	Graham
Braun	Cortez Masto	Grassley
Britt	Cotton	Hagerty
Brown	Cramer	Hassan
Budd	Crapo	Hawley
Cantwell	Cruz	Heinrich
Capito	Daines	Hickenlooper