

from Israel. Chillingly, the mob went person to person, checking passports and asking if they were Muslim or Jew—a modern-day pogrom in Southern Russia.

Vladimir Putin is usually quick to accuse other countries of imagined atrocities, but he has issued no such condemnation of Hamas for the very real savagery inflicted on innocent Israelis. In fact, as this latest despicable episode of anti-Semitism unfolded on Russian soil, Putin's regime welcomed a delegation of Hamas terrorists to the Kremlin.

The Russian Government's policy is to demand that Israel agree to a ceasefire—a de facto amnesty for the terrorist aggressors who slaughtered children in their homes a few weeks ago. In that regard, street protestors across the West have found common cause with a Russian dictator.

No major power has done more to turbocharge Iran's terrorist network in the Middle East than Putin's Russia. The Kremlin's intervention in Syria allowed Tehran to establish a massive corridor of resources to terrorist proxies like Hezbollah and Hamas. So it should surprise no one that Iran has happily provided Russia with a kamikaze drone to fire at Ukrainian cities.

Russia, Iran, and China do not share an ideology, but they do share interests. They see themselves in conflict with the West and especially with America. Russia would love to see Iranian-backed terrorists in the Middle East weaken America and our allies. Iran would love to see a Russian victory against Ukraine that divides the West and deepens its own defense cooperation with Moscow. China, for its part, would love to see America's resolve to stand with European and Israeli allies and reestablish actual deterrence against Russia and Iran crumble.

So at the risk of repeating myself, the threats facing America and our allies are serious, and they are intertwined. If we ignore that fact, we do so at our own peril.

#### DEFENSE SPENDING

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Biden administration's defense budget requests have systemically ignored these growing threats. The President's supplemental request to address multiple crises that have unfolded on his watch is a recognition of this failure. So our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee now have a chance to provide critical resources that our military and defense industrial base needs to keep pace with growing threats and support our partners.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, Congress also has an opportunity to force the administration to start treating our southern border like the sovereign, legal boundary that it is. The

southern border crisis is not a problem of insufficient resources. It is not the zero-sum alternative to deterring our adversaries overseas. It is the direct result of misguided policies that have incentivized record illegal migration.

It doesn't take tens of billions of dollars to fix this problem; it just takes common sense. I would urge our Democratic colleagues to show some common sense by working with Republicans to stop the border crisis, rebuild American military strength, and stand with our friends in Ukraine, Israel, and Asia.

#### ISRAEL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a related matter, I spoke recently about alarming reactions to the October 7 attacks coming from America's top universities. We have seen student radicals spew outright hate and campus leaders respond with agonizing, equivocating statements. But it appears that neither thick-headed, young activists nor mealy-mouthed administrators can hold a candle to university faculty when it comes to moral obtuseness. Here are a few examples:

After a student group at Columbia published a letter describing Hamas's savage attacks as the—listen to this—“struggle for freedom” of “occupied peoples [who] have the right to resist occupation,” over 100 faculty members signed a letter of their own expressing a desire to “preserve Columbia University as a beacon for fostering critical thinking and opening minds to different points of view.”

Needless to say, I am a staunch supporter of the First Amendment. People are entitled to different points of view, but they aren't entitled to different facts, and the only group that has occupied Gaza since 2007 is Hamas.

Besides, America's higher education system has a long way to go when it comes to protecting free speech and fostering diverse viewpoints. Just ask any right-of-center academic. But, of all places to start on their journey toward freedom of expression, they choose to celebrate terrorism—terrorism?

Meanwhile, the University of Pennsylvania is facing a donor revolt over campus protests and an anti-Semitic literary festival that predated October 7, but that didn't stop the local chapter of, essentially, its professors' union from issuing a six-page letter denouncing the university administration's pro-Israel views.

The school's painfully nuanced attempts at moral equivalency are, apparently, an “erasure” of Palestinian voices. Donors' outrage at radical calls for a pogrom are “coercive threats” that demand their removal from all university boards.

Let us remember who is doing the aggressing here. There is an open FBI investigation into online threats encouraging the murder—the murder—of Jewish students at Cornell. The university

has had to bring in police to help protect the kosher dining hall on campus, and many Jewish students are opting to stay in their rooms for safety.

Until recently, the tenured leftwing apparatchiks of America's elite universities might have expected donors to keep on writing checks no matter which sort of unhinged, post-modern hate they ginned up. Well, not anymore.

At Penn, one alumnus's call to boycott the school has spread like wildfire, precipitating a crisis that, by one account, could put a \$1 billion hole in the university's books. At least a dozen CEOs have pledged not to hire any members of the Harvard student groups who blamed Israel for the murders of its children. And elite law firms have started rescinding job offers from law students who regurgitate terrorist talking points. Some are even competing with each other to fund relief efforts in Israel.

So activist professors are entitled to their own opinions. But money is also protected speech, and they aren't entitled to donors' pocketbooks. That is not how the real world works.

America and our allies have woken up from a “holiday from history.” American business and philanthropists are starting to do the very same thing. Let's hope it continues.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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.

#### 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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew James Maddox, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

#### IRAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Hamas's brutal attack on Israel on October 7 has thrust not just Hamas but Iran into the spotlight. Why? Because, while Hamas may have carried out this attack, Iran enabled it and is currently enabling terrorist organizations throughout the Middle East.

There is Hamas, which gets approximately 90 percent of its military budget from Iran and benefits from Iranian training and weapons. Then there is Hezbollah, the terrorist organization on Israel's northern border with Lebanon, which is also armed and financed by Iran. Then there are the Houthis in Yemen, who are backed by Iran and who, in the aftermath of October 7, fired missiles and drones headed in the direction of Israel, likely at Iran's direction. There are the Shia militias who are attacking American soldiers in Iraq and Syria, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the list literally goes on.

As I said on the floor last week, through its proxies, Iran is literally getting away with murder. One has to wonder what the Middle East would look like today if Iran hadn't spent decades funding and arming terrorist organizations. Nor are Iran's malign activities confined to the Middle East. Iran has provided Russia with drones to use in its war of aggression against Ukraine, and now it appears that Iran is helping Russia to build a drone manufacturing facility to dramatically increase Russia's drone supply.

Meanwhile, Russia's Foreign Minister was in Iran last week and met with the Iranian President. A Reuters article on the meeting reported:

Russia and Iran are firming up bilateral relations in a 'trusting' atmosphere, Russia's foreign ministry said . . .

Mr. President, Iran doesn't just represent a danger to peace and stability in the Middle East and beyond. It is directly responsible for much of the strife that we see there. And in the wake of the October 7 attack and Israel's military response, Iran has threatened Israel with escalation and a war on "multiple fronts."

It is time to make clear to Iran that its deadly activities can't continue. The Biden administration must clearly articulate to the Iranians that if they do not stand down or if they greenlight any escalation against Israel, the United States and our allies will respond. In the meantime, the administration should be exploring all avenues for ending Iran's career as a state sponsor of terror. Israel and the Arab world deserve a chance to move forward, free of Iran's malign meddling.

President Biden and his administration do not have the strongest track record on Iran—witness their misguided attempts to reboot the Obama administration's problematic nuclear deal and the decision to unfreeze \$6 billion in Iranian funds as part of a deal to free American prisoners. The President did, finally, listen to calls from myself and others in the wake of Hamas's attack to once again freeze that \$6 billion, and the administration was right to move more U.S. forces into the region to deter escalation and to respond to attacks on U.S. troops.

But it is clear that a lot more needs to be done if we want to stop Iran from funding terror. I am disappointed that the President has continued in his

choice of Jack Lew as Ambassador to Israel. Mr. Lew played a key role in developing and carrying out the Obama administration's misguided nuclear deal, and his nomination does not exactly send the message to Iran that the Biden administration will be cracking down on Iranian warmongering.

Thirty-three Americans died as a result of Hamas's October 7 act, and as many as 10 Americans are still likely trapped as hostages, with hundreds of other Americans still stuck in Gaza. Meanwhile, a number of American military personnel have been injured in drone attacks in Iraq and Syria carried out by Iran-backed groups. Add the more than 1,400 individuals who died in Hamas's October 7 attack and countless other terrorism-related deaths in the Middle East and it becomes very clear that Iran's hands are stained with the blood of thousands.

If there is to be any hope of peace in the Middle East, if there is to be any hope for a brighter and more secure future for Israelis and Palestinians and many others, then Iran's career as a state sponsor of terror must be ended. And I will do everything I can with my colleagues in Congress to see that that is accomplished. And I hope the Biden administration will do the same. It is time to end Iran's reign of terror.

#### ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. President, before I yield the floor, I want to take just a moment to talk about the disturbing displays of anti-Semitism we are seeing around the world and, appallingly—appallingly—right here at home. From celebrations of Hamas's attack to threats of violence directed against Jewish individuals and organizations and a U.S. Senator, the weeks since October 7 have contained horrifying echoes of a very dark time in human history.

The spectacle of a mob storming a runway to hunt for Jewish passengers is a sight I never thought that I would see in my lifetime, and I pray it is a sight that we will never see again. But preventing this kind of evil from expanding its foothold is going to require action on our part: a willingness to stand up and to call it out and to affirm that this kind of hatred has no place in a civilized society.

In the days to come, I hope that leaders around the world will make it very clear that anti-Semitism's day is over and neither our Nation nor the world community will ever allow the dark history of the 20th century to be repeated in the 21st.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last night, I announced that the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, will vote to subpoena Harlan Crow, Robin Arkley, and Leonard Leo—two billionaire megadonors and one of their enablers—who sit at the center of the ethical crisis currently gripping the U.S. Supreme Court.

This vote is the next step in the committee's ongoing investigation on the ethics of the Supreme Court. It comes only after Mr. Crow refused to comply with committee requests and Mr. Leo and Arkley outright stonewalled the committee in the exercise of our constitutional authority.

For years—years—reports of ethical misconduct by individual Justices on the Court have raised serious concerns; but over the past year, a series of investigative reports have brought the long-simmering issue to a boil. Story after story has emerged about lavish gifts and luxury trips that Supreme Court Justices shamelessly accepted and failed to disclose. The reported behavior is unworthy of anyone in public office, and it has led to an historic loss of public confidence in the Supreme Court.

Some background here is necessary. Harlan Crow is a billionaire and a Republican megadonor. He first met Justice Clarence Thomas in the mid-1990s after Thomas's confirmation to the Supreme Court. Not long after they met, Crow began to shower Justice Thomas with lavish gifts, flights on his private jet, invitations to an all-male, invitation-only private club, and a \$19,000 Bible that once belonged to Frederick Douglass.

We know about these initial gifts because Justice Thomas listed them and disclosed them on the financial disclosure forms he was required to submit under Federal law, but those disclosures abruptly stopped in 2004, almost 20 years ago, after a Los Angeles Times report questioned their propriety.

We have since learned that Justice Thomas since continued to receive gifts from Crow that are staggering in both their number and value—from additional flights on Crow's private jets to nearly annual stays at Crow's luxury camps and private clubs, to vacations on Crow's superyacht. Justice Thomas simply stopped disclosing these gifts to the American people.

But Harlan Crow is not the only billionaire bankrolling the lavish lifestyle of a Supreme Court Justice, and Justice Clarence Thomas is not the only Justice to accept improper gifts.

Let's turn to Robin Arkley. In 2008, Arkley hosted Justice Samuel Alito in his luxury fishing lodge in Alaska. There, Alito fished, flew on the lodge's bush planes, and enjoyed wine costing upwards of \$1,000 a bottle—\$1,000 a bottle. Justice Alito included none of this on his financial disclosure—nothing.

That 2008 luxury fishing trip was arranged by a man named Leonard Leo. Leo has been a longtime leader of the