

more come out of Wednesday's meeting.

If they will crack down on these precursor chemicals that are used to make fentanyl, it would be of huge benefit to this country and save thousands of lives. So we are optimistic and hopeful that our codel and now President Biden pushing the issue will get some real results. It was among the highest priorities for our codel last month.

I also urged Jake Sullivan to make sure that President Biden echoes what we told President Xi about the need for reciprocity between U.S. and Chinese businesses. Time and time again, our best companies are prohibited from competing freely or competing at all in China, while many of their best companies can freely compete here.

So many of our companies are severely disadvantaged when the Chinese Government stacks the deck against them in the form of forced technology transfers, the theft of their intellectual property, and other unfair practices. This is costing countless American jobs and tens of millions—if not more—to our economy every single year.

We listed, roughly, a dozen major companies that right now face a major disadvantage competing in China, and we hope the President will strongly push President Xi on those this week.

We also stressed to President Xi last month that if the United States and China are to improve their economic relations, U.S. companies need to be able to compete freely in China, just as they compete freely here. I expect President Biden will emphasize the same this week.

Finally, I hope President Biden is adamant, as we were, with President Xi that China must lean on Russia and Iran not to exacerbate the military crises happening around the world.

On the Israel-Gaza conflict, in particular, we told President Xi that China needs to use its influence on Iran to stop them from acting in any way that would widen the conflict. China should play a positive, not a negative, role in this delicate crisis.

In fact, during my meeting with President Xi, as you may remember, I criticized the Chinese Government for issuing a statement about October 7 that failed to condemn the killing of civilians, and they ended up issuing a stronger statement the next day. When President Biden is similarly firm that China should play a stabilizing role with Iran and Russia, I think it will make a big difference.

In short, Wednesday's meeting between President Biden and President Xi will be a real test for China to show that they truly want a better relationship with the United States.

When my colleagues and I met with President Xi in person, we were pointed and specific with our questions and issues and found him to be responsive. So I expect President Biden will have the same sort of frank conversation we did a month ago.

When the President hammers home the same things we focused on in Bei-

jing on fentanyl, on reciprocity for U.S. businesses, on ensuring stability on the world stage, then, given what we saw in our conversations, we think it could make significant progress on issues we have long focused on here in the U.S. Senate.

I salute President Biden for meeting with President Xi, and I am very hopeful we will get some real results as a result of that meeting.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on avoiding a government shutdown, it is a critical week here in the U.S. Capitol. This Friday, at midnight, the Federal Government is going to shut down unless Congress acts first. The last thing the American people want to see is another unnecessary and painful government shutdown.

Democrats certainly don't want to have a shutdown, and many of our Republican colleagues have likewise claimed they don't want to see one either. Even the mere act of approaching a shutdown is damaging. Last Friday, when Moody's announced they lowered the U.S. credit rating to "negative," citing "continued political polarization" as one of its reasons, that proved to be true.

The answer for avoiding a government shutdown is what I have been saying all along: Bipartisanship is necessary. I have said on multiple occasions that if we are going to work together to keep the government open, Speaker JOHNSON will have to avoid pushing steep cuts or poison pills that Democrats can't support.

For now, I am pleased that Speaker JOHNSON seems to be moving in our direction by advancing a CR that does not include the highly partisan cuts that Democrats have warned against.

The Speaker's proposal is far from perfect, but the most important thing is that it refrains from making steep cuts while also extending funding for defense in the second tranche of bills in February, not the first in January.

Today, the House Rules Committee will take up the Speaker's bill, and that will give us the first indication of how committed Republicans are to keeping the government open.

The next few days will tell all in the House, and I hope the Speaker does not buckle to the loud voices on his hard-right flank to add partisan cuts as the price for keeping the government open.

In divided government, extremists on one side cannot expect to dictate the agenda for the rest of Congress, especially when their views are so out of line with the majority of Congress and the majority of the American people.

I hope Speaker JOHNSON recognizes that he will need support from Democrats in both Chambers if he wants to avoid causing a shutdown. He needs to stay away from poison pills and steep, hard-right cuts for that to happen.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Madam President, on military holds, it has now been 9 months since Senator TUBERVILLE began his reckless hold on hundreds of military promotions.

Frankly, patience on both sides—both sides of the aisle—is wearing very, very thin.

Every day Senator TUBERVILLE continues his reckless blockades of military promotions. America's national security pays the price. Our military readiness pays the price. Military families—spouses who need to start new jobs and children who need to start new schools—pay the price.

It is the responsibility of Senate Republican colleagues to importune Senator TUBERVILLE to stand down, let these military nominees go through, and tell him to start putting his hard-right political demands ahead of America's national security.

I know some Republicans have been trying to work with Senator TUBERVILLE over the past week to find some last-ditch solution, but he seems to remain ironclad in his stubbornness. So, tomorrow, the Senate Rules Committee—led by Senator KLOBUCHAR—will mark up a resolution allowing the Senate to quickly confirm the promotions currently blocked by Senator TUBERVILLE. I thank my colleague and chair of the Armed Services Committee, Senator REED, for his work on this resolution.

If Senator TUBERVILLE continues his blanket holds on military nominations—if he won't even listen to Members on his own side of the aisle—I will bring Senator REED's resolution to the floor for a vote as soon as possible; that way we can end Senator TUBERVILLE's farce and quickly confirm the over 350 military promotions—people who have served their country long and well—we can finally move them to their rightful promotions.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 STEPHEN R. DWYER, CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 SHANE M. BARNES, STAFF SERGEANT TANNER W. GRONE, SERGEANT ANDREW P. SOUTHARD, AND SERGEANT CADE M. WOLFE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I need to begin today with some tragic news. This weekend, as Americans joined together to salute our heroes, five soldiers deployed out of Fort Campbell, KY, were killed while operating in dangerous conditions in the Mediterranean Sea: CW3 Stephen Dwyer, CW2 Shane Barnes, SSG Tanner Grone, SGT Andrew Southard, and SGT Cade Wolfe.

These fallen warriors were members of Fort Campbell's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, known by their brothers- and sisters-in-arms as Night Stalkers.

The Night Stalkers are elite, highly trained fighters who take on the most sensitive missions. They are ready to respond at any time there are serious threats anywhere in the world, and they ground their service in two principles: never quit and never surrender.

Night Stalkers live, breathe, and—tragically—often die by a creed which reads:

I serve with the memory and the pride of those who have gone before me, for they loved to fight, fought to win, and would rather die than quit.

This weekend, five brave men honored their creed. Their memory will live on, carried by Night Stalkers who continue to profess it and by every American who mourns their loss. This tragedy is a stark reminder of the incredible dangers our men and women in uniform face and of the debt we owe them.

So, today, I join our Nation in grieving these fallen warriors, and I extend my prayers to their families, children, and comrades.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Madam President, now, on an entirely different matter, I have been encouraged this year by the progress our Appropriations Committee has made toward restoring regular order to the way we fund the Federal Government. As I have said before, shutting down the government does nothing—nothing—to advance that work.

Regular order requires that Congress provide itself the time for careful consideration and thorough amendment. I am glad to see that Speaker JOHNSON has produced a continuing resolution that would do exactly that.

There is a lot of work left to do, and aside from the remaining full-year appropriations bills, glaring national security priorities continue to demand our attention: from Israel to Ukraine to the Indo-Pacific, and, of course, our southern border.

House Republicans have produced a responsible measure that will keep the lights on, avoid a harmful lapse in government funding, and provide the time and space to finish that important work. I will support their continuing resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

DEFENSE

Madam President, now, on a related matter, as I have said for months, Congress also has a responsibility to help our Nation meet a growing network of serious threats from adversaries like Russia, China, and Iran.

As one recent analysis put it, “Each of these revisionist states aids the others in their goals to . . . subvert or destroy democratic nations.”

Just consider the lengths that authoritarians in Beijing and terror sponsors in Tehran are going to prop up Putin’s brutal war in Ukraine. The PRC has massively ramped up its purchases of Russian energy to help Moscow subvert Western sanctions. And Chinese materials are helping produce 80 million rounds of ammunition for Russian invaders.

Meanwhile, Iran is providing maintenance for Russian aircraft that are subject to U.S. sanctions. And Iranian personnel are on Russian soil training Putin’s forces to use their lethal kamikaze drones.

So, Madam President, our adversaries are showing us by their actions that they are heavily invested in Russia’s war in Ukraine. They clearly understand that their own ability to threaten America and the West is tied directly to what is happening in Eastern Europe.

Our allies understand this reality as well. It is why allies from Japan to Poland are making massive new commitments to modernizing their own defenses and expanding their defense industrial bases. This is good news for burden-sharing and for collective security. In some cases, like Germany, our allies’ investments into Russia’s escalation into Ukraine mark a long-overdue departure from years of neglect for hard power.

Today, as Berlin continues to pour new resources into its own military strength, our German allies have also announced a plan to double—double—their direct military aid to Ukraine in the coming year.

Of course, some of our European allies have never had the luxury of taking a holiday from history. For example, since the beginning of Russia’s escalation, our NATO ally Estonia has allocated a nearly unparalleled share of its GDP in direct assistance. Estonians know that Vladimir Putin does not intend to stop at Kyiv.

America’s friends understand that failing to check Putin’s aggression in Europe would have far-reaching consequences. So do our biggest adversaries. We cannot afford to neglect this reality ourselves, and we cannot deny the clear ways that America’s support for Ukraine is driving our growing readiness to face other threats.

The emergency investments we have made in the U.S. defense industrial base as a result of Russia’s war on Ukraine are doubling production capacity of 155-millimeter artillery rounds. They are driving a 40-percent increase in production of long-range precision fires and nearly doubling our capacity for air-to-air missiles.

Denying the obvious connections between the threats we face can’t obscure the fact that the benefits of investments in Western strength are also connected. Expanding our defense industrial bases means making America and our allies stronger—from Europe to the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific.

The most important thing anyone who is truly concerned about growing threats from China or Iran can do is support investments in American military capabilities and our defense industrial base. That includes both supplemental resources and full-year defense appropriations. If we fail to take these steps, we won’t just be starving our friends and allies but our own military.

The threats we face are not divisible, but neither is the progress we are mak-

ing toward restoring American strength.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, history was made today with the release of a document by the U.S. Supreme Court. Today, for the first time in the history of the United States, the Supreme Court has issued a code of conduct for Supreme Court Justices. Most Americans will be surprised to learn that this was the first time this code of conduct has been issued, but that is a fact.

I know this issue better than most because 11 years ago, I wrote to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts—along with several of my colleagues—and told him that the establishment of a code of conduct for the Supreme Court Justices was long overdue.

After years of refusing to act, a series of scandalous disclosures involving several Justices on the Court, and the Senate Judiciary Committee passing legislation sponsored by Senator SHELTON WHITEHOUSE on ethical reform, the Supreme Court has finally responded. Today, for the first time in history, the Supreme Court of the United States is at least saying to the American people: We hear you and understand that the nine Justices on the Supreme Court are members of a democratic form of government, not royalty, and that they should be held accountable as all public servants in the Federal Government are held accountable.

At a glance, this Code of Conduct for Justices of the Supreme Court is similar to the standards that apply to all other lower court Federal judges. The Court’s code of conduct sets forth several important canons of conduct, including canons on upholding the integrity and independence of the judiciary and avoiding impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

All of these are important steps, but they fall short of what we could and should expect when the Supreme Court issues a code of conduct. The Court’s statement on the code specifically notes:

For the most part these rules and principles are not new.

That is a problem because the Court’s previous practices were plainly inadequate. The Court’s new code of conduct does not appear to contain any meaningful enforcement mechanism to hold Justices accountable for any violations of the code. It also leaves a wide range of decisions up to the discretion of individual Justices, including decisions on recusal from sitting on cases.

I am still reviewing the Court’s new code of conduct. For now, I would note that the Court’s adoption of this code marks a step in the right direction. It may fall short of the ethical standards which other Federal judges are held to, and that is unacceptable. And if it falls