

other words, as I expected, a coequal branch of government conducted its business independently, which sounds an awful lot like the separation of powers envisioned in the Constitution.

Certainly, that hasn't deterred Senate Democrats from their obsessive effort to bend the Court to their will. In fact, their monthslong smear campaign—disguised as an effort to make the senior-most jurists in the country, duly confirmed by the Senate, more "accountable" to the American people—unfortunately, continues apace. We know what our colleagues really mean by "accountability." It is code for "intimidation."

I am sure that this sort of accountability is exactly what the Justices and their families felt as the Biden administration declined to enforce Federal law and protect them in their homes from angry mobs or when Senate Democrats threatened to slash the Court security budget in the face of death threats or on any number of occasions when our colleagues have issued ominous, veiled warnings about "restructuring" or outright threats that Justices would "pay the price."

This week, Democrats on the Judiciary Committee are at it again. Our colleagues planned last week to threaten legal action against private citizens who decline to indulge their sham trial of the Justices. The only problem? Republicans on the committee submitted too many commonsense amendments, and the majority worried that some of them might pass with bipartisan support.

But regardless of how Senate Democrats choose to spend their time, I will repeat what I have said before: I have the utmost confidence in each one of the Justices of our Nation's highest Court, and they should continue to pay this intimidation campaign no mind.

#### INFLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now on another matter, this morning's October inflation report tells a story that has become familiar on President Biden's watch. Prices remain stubbornly high and well above the Federal Reserve's 2-percent target. Prices are up 3.2 per year over year, and cumulative inflation since the President took office now clocks in at 17.6 percent.

Even as the rate prices are growing ebbs, working Americans are growing more frustrated with an expensive new normal. The price of a gallon of milk has risen 15.8 percent since January of 2021. Meanwhile, a gallon of gas is going for 54.8 percent more. As one small business owner in Texas put it to reporters recently, he said:

I'm trying to think of one area where prices have eased, and I can't think of anything.

Earlier this month, President Biden told a gathering in rural Minnesota that "Bidenomics is just another way of saying 'the American Dream.'" The

American people are just simply not buying that.

According to one recent survey, only 14 percent of U.S. voters have said President Biden has made them better off, and 65 percent of voters said they had cut back on nonessential spending.

So, if the President thinks that Bidenomics is the American dream, he might want to pay closer attention to how many Americans are desperate to wake up.

#### MARCH FOR ISRAEL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, today, our Nation's Capital will welcome a rally of Jewish Americans and friends of Israel. The participants in today's events are gathering in mourning, in worry, in fear, and in shared resolve.

In the dark days since the terrorist massacre of October 7, their message has been crystal clear: There is no moral equivalence between terrorism and self-defense. Israel has a right to exist, and Jews everywhere have a right to live without fear.

These basic truths should be obvious and unimpeachable. But if anyone failed to see the creeping advance of anti-Semitism across the West in recent years, if any corner of our society let itself believe that this unique hatred of Jews has been confined to history, that naive fiction was shattered on October 7 and swept away by the hate that has poured across college campuses and city streets throughout America and the West over the past month.

In just the first week after Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad murdered 1,200 Israelis, harassment, vandalism, and assault against American Jews rose nearly 400 percent.

But the peaceful people gathering in Washington today aren't here to ask for pity for themselves. They are here on behalf of the more than 240 hostages, including a 3-year-old American boy and at least 8 other Americans who cannot speak for themselves. They are here with a clear message for our leaders: Stand with Israel.

Since October 7, I have spoken repeatedly about the challenges Israel faces as it works to protect its people, bring the hostages home, and destroy Hamas's capability to wage war. I have talked about the terrorists' reprehensible record of systematically violating the customary laws of war; their expropriation of humanitarian aid; the cold-blooded practice of putting command centers and weapons caches in hospitals, schools, and even mosques; their grotesque penchant for using innocent Gazans as human shields; and, of course, the threat of further violence from the Iran-backed terrorists on the second front.

This is why I have urged the Biden administration to give Israel the time, space, and support it needs to bring these savages to justice.

How quickly some in the West have become confused about the crystal-

clear distinction between terrorism and self-defense. It is not the same thing.

Hamas sought the conflict. Hamas perpetuates it by holding hostages and continuing its terrorism. And those of us who live out of range of terrorist rockets should pause before second-guessing Israel's response.

This is the time that demands moral clarity on campuses, in newsrooms, in Congress, and at the sharp end of American military strength. It is also time to restore credible deterrence against Iran, the chief underwriter and architect of violence against Israel and against American forces in the Middle East.

In less than 1 month, Iran-backed terrorists have targeted U.S. service-members in Iraq and Syria 52 times. From the abandonment of Afghanistan to the delisting of the Houthis, to our failure to respond to proxy attacks on our friends in the region, the Biden administration has made Iran's job actually easier.

And now, as America dithers over support for their friends in Ukraine, Tehran has thrown itself firmly behind Putin's Russia. It will take more than demolishing a couple of warehouses to show our adversaries we are credible. Iran and its terrorist networks must know that violence against America or our allies will be met swiftly and overwhelmingly with lethal force.

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. 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.

#### ENERGY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, recent events—notably, Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine and Hamas's deadly October 7 attack on Israel—have thrown the importance of national security into sharp relief. At its most basic level, of course, national security means having a strong military, a fighting force that can meet and defeat any threat it is called upon to face. But there are other key components of national security as well. There is border security, there is economic security, and there is energy security.

Now, what do I mean by energy security? I mean a strong and stable energy supply that does not depend upon imports from hostile countries or unstable regions of the world. You only have to look at the soaring costs and supply challenges countries like Germany have faced in the wake of Russia's attack on Ukraine to realize that relying on energy from other countries, particularly hostile countries, can leave a country in a deeply vulnerable position.

The United States has been doing a good job of maintaining our energy security. We developed domestic resources, both renewable and conventional, which meant that we were able to minimize our reliance on other countries. But President Biden upended that trajectory with his singular focus on Green New Deal policies, and now we are at an inflection point, honestly.

President Biden's energy policies have put us on a dangerous trajectory, one that could easily result in significant disruptions to our domestic supply. For starters, there is the President's notable hostility to conventional energy production. Since the day he took office, President Biden has pursued an agenda that is hostile to conventional sources of energy—namely, oil and natural gas.

He set the tone on his first day in office when he canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline—a pipeline project, by the way, that was already underway and was to be paired with \$1.7 billion in private investment in renewable energy to fully offset its operating emissions. He also almost immediately froze new oil and gas leases on Federal lands, sending a clear signal to oil and gas producers that his administration would be reluctant to work with them to increase American energy production. And he has continued along the same lines ever since, with a recent notable example being his cancellation of seven oil and gas leases in the small portion of the ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, that is available for energy exploration and development.

The problem with the President's actions, of course, is that our Nation is nowhere near being able to end our reliance on conventional energy. And let me just say, I am a big and longtime supporter of renewable energy, but we are simply not in a position yet where we can rely predominantly on alternative energy technologies. The President himself admitted as much in his most recent State of the Union Address, but that hasn't stopped him from pursuing policies that seem designed to eventually force our Nation to rely on other countries for oil and gas, with all the attendant security and economic risk that brings.

And the President's energy agenda isn't limited to canceling oil and gas leases or discouraging investment in conventional energy production. Also of deep concern is the President's apparent determination to force Americans to adopt electric vehicles on a broad scale within the next decade. And why is this so concerning? Because our electric grid is nowhere near capable of supporting that kind of a widespread transition to electric vehicles. Rising electricity demand is already stretching our grid, which has been weakened by the move away from conventional energy sources.

In February, the PJM Interconnection, which manages a substantial part of eastern America's electric grid, warned that fossil fuel plants are being

forced to retire at a faster rate than new renewables can be brought online—at a rate of roughly 2 to 1. In other words, we are rapidly approaching a situation in which we simply don't have the ability to keep up with our current electricity demand. Add charging for tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of electric vehicles on top of that, and we would be looking at a future of widespread blackouts and brownouts, to say nothing of soaring electricity prices.

So it goes without saying that a nation that can't reliably keep its lights on or its homes heated is a nation that is less than secure. To make matters worse, the Biden administration has proposed a rule that would severely constrain supply chain for distribution transformers, which is a critical component of America's electric grid.

Stakeholders are already facing significant backlogs for these critical components, whether they are trying to recover from a storm, improve the grid, or tie in new development. The Biden administration's proposed rule would guarantee that these problems would get worse.

Recent events remind us that we can't take our Nation's security for granted. We have to work constantly to maintain our Nation's strength, both to ensure that we are always prepared to meet any threat and because being strong is the best way to discourage any threat; and energy security is an essential part of maintaining that strength. If we want to maintain our energy security and if we want to maintain the kind of energy supply that can not only deal with all domestic energy demands but will leave us free from overreliance on other countries, we can't keep heading down the path the Biden administration has set us on.

I hope the President and his allies will realize this important point before it is too late.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I seek recognition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

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UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—  
H.R. 6126

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, time is of the essence. Yes, time is of the essence, and that is why I rise today, once again, in calling for the immediate passage of the House-led and passed bipartisan, standalone aid package for Israel that will provide our ally

with \$14 billion in military assistance for their ongoing war with the savage Hamas terrorists. This standalone bill does not use Israel as a lever to fund Ukraine funding or to make our border more porous to terrorists and criminals.

I want to start by sharing two stories—the stories of two gentlemen I met last week. I am going to start with Doran. Doran's brother was the mayor of a kibbutz located within a stone's throw from Gaza. As the mayor, he often welcomed Palestinians from Gaza. He shared meals with them and conversed with them. It was a peace-loving family. But on the morning of October 7, Doran's brother, the mayor, was brutally murdered by Hamas.

But that wasn't enough. Next, his brother's mother-in-law was murdered. Then, his son was murdered and, finally, a nephew. In a matter of a few hours, a woman lost her husband, her mother, her son, and her nephew.

The other story I want to share is of two brothers, Gal and Guy. Gal was the older brother. Guy was the younger brother. They went to the peace and love music festival, just about 3 miles away from the Gaza Strip. And, on the morning of October 7, Gal was watching over his brother Guy, and they heard gunshots, and they heard rockets going off, and they both decided to run for their cars. They were split up, and, while Gal made it home, Guy never did.

Later that same day, his family saw horrifying videos of his brother lying on the ground, handcuffed, and who remains a hostage to this day. And, of course, we have no idea if Guy is alive or not.

So I ask: Why is this important? Why is time of the essence?

Listen, Israel is a powder keg, and it is about ready to explode. For starters, since we were here last, Hamas leadership has declared its desire for a permanent state of war with Israel on all borders. There continues to be a barrage of missiles, rockets, and drone attacks on Israel that has worsened since the war broke out, with Hamas firing at Israel nearly 10,000 times.

Since October 7, 50 attacks have occurred on U.S. military installations. Some 52 American soldiers have been injured, not to mention that we lost 30—some Americans, killed on October 7 by these monsters called Hamas.

So why is time of the essence? Right now, there are still hundreds of innocent people, like Gal's brother Guy, being held captive, and, most likely, being tortured and raped by Hamas terrorists, including 10 Americans.

So I stand here today, again, calling on my Democratic colleagues to do the right thing, and today—yes, today—pass this aid for Israel in their time of need. It has been over 5 weeks since the Hamas army of terror launched its savage and brutal assault on our greatest ally in the Middle East. The House and its bipartisan solution have only been met with obstruction by my friends across the aisle in this Chamber, and