

MAGA extremists. And then these same Justices turn around and gut affirmative action, block student debt relief for millions of Americans, greenlight discrimination against the LGBTQ community, and so much else. The hypocrisy is undeniable, and the American people see right through it. These very same billionaires who are pushing cases through the Court having the ability to travel on jets and go to resorts and buy them gifts is just outrageous.

So, today, Senate Democrats are taking action to look under the hood and make sure we increase transparency, which these subpoenas would do.

Once again, I support the Senate Judiciary's vote to authorize these subpoenas. I thank Chairman DURBIN and my colleagues on the committee for their work.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING HENRY A. KISSINGER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the past hundred years have seen few, if any, strategic thinkers shape world events as profoundly as Henry Kissinger. Few academics have had such deep experience in the practice of foreign policy. Few political appointees have had such bureaucratic savvy. Few senior government officials have carried such intellectual heft.

Who else could claim to have advised more than one-fourth of all U.S. Presidents, to have taken a seat across from every Chinese head of state since Chairman Mao?

Yesterday marked the end of the extraordinary Kissinger century.

If you consider just the early chapters of this remarkable life, you might expect Henry Kissinger to be the quintessential idealist. But by the age of 30, he had escaped Nazi brutality for America, returned home a decorated veteran of the campaign to defeat Hitler, and launched a successful career as an Ivy League academic.

Of course, instead of an idealist, this made-for-Hollywood origin story produced one of the world's staunchest realists. The Kissinger calculus was grounded in pragmatic assessments of national interest, the use of military force, and diplomatic compromise; and, by extension, so were decades of American foreign policy.

Several years ago, one particularly apt assessment of Henry Kissinger's legacy pointed out that he didn't believe "the arc of history makes house calls." In other words, if the free world waits passively for its noble convic-

tions to be vindicated, we will be waiting quite a while.

Instead, Henry Kissinger knew that the organizing principle for American strategy must be American interests, and he left no room for wondering what this approach looked like in practice. His careful negotiations ushered in a period of detente with America's greatest 20th century rival, and his bold diplomacy opened the door to a relationship with China that rebalanced Cold War dynamics in America's favor.

Of course, the enduring relevance of Dr. Kissinger's work is due in no small part to his prolific participation in public discourse on foreign policy and grand strategy, up until the very end. The author of 21 books confounded scholars half his age with the pace and the volume of his brilliant scholarship on topics ranging from the history of diplomacy to artificial intelligence.

In perhaps the truest expression of both his intellectual horsepower and understanding of power, he remains the only American statesman to have served as Secretary of State and National Security Advisor at the very same time.

Today, the world Henry Kissinger leaves behind bears his indelible mark. The Nation he served—the global superpower he helped create—owes him our gratitude.

Elaine and I, along with so many of Dr. Kissinger's friends in the Senate, send our condolences to his wife Nancy, his children David and Elizabeth, and to the entire Kissinger family as they mourn a great American.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, now, on another matter, a good way to size up leaders at home and abroad is to look at how they treat borders.

Good leaders recognize sovereignty as the bedrock of national security. As a result, peaceful nations both respect the inviolability of other nations' borders as well as vigorously defend their own.

The world is awash in examples of this fundamental reality. Putin has spent years trampling the sovereignty of his European neighbors. But the people of Ukraine are enduring occupation and torture and giving their lives to restore their homeland's lawful borders.

Iran's network of proxies violates the sovereignty of Israel and its Arab neighbors with horrific terrorist bloodlust. But the people of Israel respond with unwavering resolve to restore security.

President Xi is pouring unprecedented investments into Chinese military power with the express purpose of shattering a sovereign democracy and undermining regional order, but Taiwan and America's other Asian partners are steeling themselves to deter aggression.

The United States has a direct interest in helping our friends maintain their sovereignty—from Europe to the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific. According to a survey published just

today by the Reagan Institute, that is exactly how overwhelming majorities in this country see it.

By this latest account, 65 percent of Americans support U.S. assistance to Taiwan, 67 percent support assistance to Ukraine, and 71 percent support assistance to Israel. In other words, a full two-thirds of the country recognizes the scope of America's interests and responsibilities as a global superpower.

At the same time, vast majorities continue to affirm that national security begins at home. Recent polling shows that even a majority of Democrats say that they are at least very concerned about the state of American border security on President Biden's watch.

Over 9,000 illegal aliens arrive at our Nation's southern border every day. And thanks to a profoundly broken system of asylum and parole, they know that the vast majority will be waved on through to settle in the interior. The consequences of this crisis touch every corner of our country. The overwhelming task facing Border Patrol personnel is drawing Federal law enforcement personnel off of other important missions to help contend with the surging arrivals at ports of entry.

As the senior Senator from Missouri revealed yesterday, some officers charged with protecting Federal buildings are being sent instead to ferry illegal aliens to and from the hospital. The vast stretches of border in between are seeing massive flows of lethal drugs like fentanyl on their way to poisoning Americans in States across the interior.

Across the country, even progressive mayors of self-described "sanctuary cities" are at wit's end contending with the human wave heading north.

The Biden administration's failure to secure our southern border is an embarrassing and dangerous policy failure. Here in the Senate, Democrats are making an embarrassing misjudgment of their own. The Democratic leader would like us to believe that the defense of sovereign borders is an urgent and noble cause when it takes place overseas but an "extraneous" distraction here at home. Some of our colleagues apparently think America can profess to stand for the rule of law without enforcing it on our own soil.

The Senate has 2 weeks—2 weeks—to pass supplemental legislation to meet urgent national security priorities. That means time is running out for our Democratic colleagues to recognize that national security begins here at home.

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.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, there is something I want to address today. I just want to make an observation about this discussion we are having on our southern border. I would reiterate what I have been saying now for some time, and that is that it is no longer just a humanitarian crisis. It is every bit of that, but it is a national security crisis.

We see the numbers on a daily basis, the number of people who are apprehended at the southern border trying to come into the country illegally. In the last 3 days—the last 3 days—that is over 9,000 per day—over 9,000 per day, and that doesn't include the "got-aways" or the unknowns. That is the people who are apprehended coming across the border illegally. And we now know that, in the month of September, for example, there were a significant number of people—18, actually—apprehended coming across the southern border, who are on the Terrorist Watchlist.

People coming from all over the world have figured out that, if you want a portal, if you want to get into the United States, just come to the southern border, and we will wave you in, which is essentially what is happening today.

And the question I would ask is, In what universe does that make any sense?

I said this yesterday: We are a nation of immigrants. We have been a very welcoming country. We have ways of bringing people into this country legally, and we do that on an annual basis.

But we are a nation of laws, first and foremost. The rule of law is what distinguishes our country from many other countries around the world, and yet, at our southern border, that doesn't mean a thing.

Over 9,000 a day—annualize that. Think about what that means. That is 3 million people a year. And we have people who want to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to it.

We have an opportunity in this national security supplemental bill that will be on the floor perhaps as early as next week. It will deal with issues like Ukraine, issues like Israel—what is happening there—and the Indo-Pacific, where we have national security interests at stake. We have to deal with the national security crisis at our southern border.

This is insanity. I don't understand it. I don't understand the administration. I don't understand some of my colleagues here in the Senate who feel like this isn't something that we need to be dealing with or addressing. This is a national security crisis on a daily basis—over 9,000 the last 3 days in a row—and, again, some of which we know, because they are catching them, are people on the Terrorist Watchlist.

In what universe does what is being done at our southern border make sense to anybody, to any rational person?

It doesn't make sense to the mayor of New York City or the mayor of Chicago, where, as migrants arrive there, they are having to divert resources to address that. The mayor of New York City said he was going to freeze hiring police officers in New York City. That seems like that would be a problem, if I were a New York City resident. He said he was going to have to close libraries and cut funding for education.

That is what we are talking about. This is not just an issue that affects communities on the southern border, although I have been down there a number of times, and, believe me, they are profoundly affected. This is an issue where every State becomes a border State, as literally thousands of people on a daily basis are released into the interior of the United States—waved by, with no regard or respect for our heritage as a nation of laws in a country that is built upon a foundation of the rule of law.

It has to be fixed. It has to be done, and it needs to be done now, and I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and our folks at the White House understand that. We can't wait any longer. This is out of control.

PHEASANT SEASON

Mr. President, on another subject, there are some things that are timeless, that are cherished by every generation, things that never get old, no matter how long they have been going on. In South Dakota, one of those things is our pheasant hunting tradition. It has been a part of South Dakota's way of life for over a century.

Over the years, as the pheasant population grew, so did the State's reputation as the "Pheasant Capital of the World." Today, hunters come from all over to participate in the annual hunting season, and the season opener, which falls on the third Saturday in October, is all but an official State holiday.

Pheasant hunting is a tradition in a lot of South Dakota families, including my own. I can't remember a time when I didn't look forward to the start of the pheasant season. We call it pheasant opener.

My dad would take my siblings and me out hunting. He taught us how to bag a rooster and work together as a team in the field. He wasn't one to miss a pheasant season, even into his late nineties.

Over the years, I have enjoyed sharing this tradition with my daughters and, later, with their husbands, and I am looking forward to passing it on to the next generation, when my grandchildren are old enough.

I was able to get out pheasant hunting over the Thanksgiving holiday, and I can say that there is nothing like a crisp fall day in South Dakota spent in our great outdoors with friends and family. I think that is what keeps so many hunters coming back every year. Of course, they also come for the challenge of the hunt and, hopefully, to limit out—in other words, to get a limit—on pheasants, roosters.

Like I said, folks come from all over for South Dakota's ringnecks. Last year, if you look at the actual number of people who came into South Dakota who hunt pheasants, there were 127,000 hunters who got licenses, came through our State, and bagged over a million roosters, and this year looks like it is going to be another great hunting season.

There is no shortage of satisfied hunters in South Dakota this time of year, but pheasant season's benefits go far beyond the hunters. For communities in the heart of pheasant country, the hunting season has a significant economic impact. In just over 100 days of hunting, pheasant season contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to our State's economy, and folks in a lot of these small towns, these small communities—places like the one I am from—always make sure that out-of-State hunters feel welcome. It is just part of who we are in South Dakota.

There could hardly be so many satisfied hunters each fall without the conservation efforts of so many landowners and agricultural producers in South Dakota. The size of our famed pheasant population is thanks, in no small part, to land conservation efforts that provide quality habitat for birds to roost.

A good hunting season in the fall depends on the spring nesting season and the ability of pheasants to hide their nests to protect their brood. And South Dakota's farmers and ranchers make sure there is habitat for that nesting.

A lot of the conservation efforts in our State are supported by the Conservation Reserve Program, which is the cornerstone of Federal conservation programs. It plays a critical role in South Dakota by supporting farmers who take environmentally sensitive land out of production.

Taking this land out of production protects against soil erosion, improves water quality, and provides habitat—including for pheasants—and it includes an economical alternative for farmers, who would otherwise have to invest in expensive fertilizers and other inputs to keep this land in production.

I have been a longtime supporter of the CRP, and I am working to make sure this program is strengthened and supported in the next farm bill so that more farmers and ranchers can access its benefits and, of course, so that future pheasant seasons are as good as seasons past.

It might seem that pheasant season is the pride of South Dakota, and we are certainly proud of that. But the pride of our State is really our way of life. It is our values, and it is our work ethic.

From the plains to the ponderosa pines and the Black Hills, there is so much to appreciate about our State and its people. South Dakotans cherish our freedoms, and we love our country, and we recognize that with freedom comes responsibility. We recognize that sometimes you have got to step up