

PRESIDENT ANDRZEJ DUDA

Mr. President, today, Leader McCONNELL and I will be honored to welcome Andrzej Duda, the President of Poland, to the Senate. President Duda arrives in the United States at a critical moment for American leadership and a critical moment for the war in Ukraine.

It has been nearly a month since the Senate passed a bipartisan national security supplemental with 70 votes in support. This supplemental package is a lifeline for Ukraine's survival, the only package on the table with enough resources to stop Russia's advance and help Ukraine reclaim the offensive.

According to a CNN report yesterday, right now, Russia is producing three times—three times—more artillery shells than the United States and Europe. In a very real sense, the war will turn on who can produce and deliver more munitions. That is what this supplemental will do.

I thank President Duda for his visit, and I thank him for being a staunch defender of the Ukrainian war effort. His support for Ukraine shows the war in Russia has stakes that extend far beyond Ukraine's borders. It implicates the very survival of Western democracy.

A little less than a month ago, I joined with Senators REED, BLUMENTHAL, HASSAN, and BENNET to travel to Eastern Europe, not just to Ukraine but to Poland, where we met with the U.S. Ambassador and U.S. military leaders. We met with U.S. military officials just a short distance from the Russian border. And the military official told us:

Senator, without U.S. aid, Russia will control the territory we are standing on now. Period.

Imagine that. Russia will control that territory without the aid. That is what they said.

The consequences of a victorious Putin are very plain. If he succeeds in taking Ukraine, he is not going to stop there. What Putin wants is to destabilize the NATO alliance and permanently undo the balance of power that has kept the peace since World War II and since the end of the Cold War. That is why it is a matter of highest urgency that Speaker JOHNSON and House leadership put the Senate's bipartisan supplemental package on the House floor, because, if he does—mark my words—it will pass. If he puts it on the floor, it will pass.

House Republicans need to do the right thing and answer democracy's cry for help. House Republicans must show the world with whom it is that they cast their lot: those who support freedom and democracy and, hopefully, not those who bow down to autocrats.

Last Friday, former President Trump met with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban at Mar-a-Lago, for what they called a "friendly" visit. A few days later, Orban said, during a Hungarian interview, that Trump's position on the war in Ukraine is "very

clear"; that "first, he will not give a single penny for the Russo-Ukrainian war. That's why the war will end, because it's obvious that Ukraine cannot stand on its own two feet." That is Orban saying just what Trump will do.

I hope our Republican colleagues will hear that and heed the message. It is disgusting that Donald Trump fraternizes with thugs like Orban who openly cheer for Putin to win. It is even worse that so many extreme Republicans in Congress are doing Trump's bidding by stalling Ukraine aid here in Congress. That is not a majority of Republicans, but too many just go along. That is the shame of it.

You can be sure that the Chinese Communist Party is taking note of House Republicans who are thwarting American support for its friend in need and assessing what that means for their own ambitions in the South Pacific. I guarantee it.

History will not be kind to those who turn their backs on American values in this pivotal moment. That is why this supplemental must get done. The Speaker must do the right thing and put the supplemental on the floor of the House because it will pass. The clock is ticking. Failure right now only guarantees that America will pay a much higher price—a much higher price—down the line.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on appropriations, we have 10 days left for both parties in both Chambers to finish the work of fully funding the government. Both parties continue making progress on appropriations related to Defense, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Labor and Health and Human Services and Education, the Legislative Branch, and State and Foreign Operations.

Both parties took a huge step last week when we passed the first six appropriations bills with strong bipartisan support. We protected important programs for moms and kids, for veterans, for the environment, for housing, and for so much more. But the job is only halfway done, and passing the second group of appropriations bills, of course, is not going to be easy. We got a lot of bipartisan momentum last week when we avoided the government shutdown on Friday, but both sides are going to have to keep working in good faith to keep that momentum alive.

Just as the hard right was tuned out in last week's appropriations bills, they should be tuned out again because they clearly only delay the process instead of moving it along.

It is going to take bipartisanship to ensure our military is fully supported and our troops are taken care of. It is going to take bipartisanship to fund the resources necessary to keep the Chinese Communist Party at bay. And it is going to take bipartisanship to make sure we take care of military families and provide their kids with childcare, healthcare, and everything else they need to live in dignity and strength.

These are the things at stake in the upcoming funding deadline: outcompeting the Chinese Communist Party, taking care of military families, keeping Americans safe around the world.

So Democrats will continue working with Republicans to finish the job. It can only be done in a bipartisan way. We know that.

Thanks to my colleagues Chair MURRAY, Vice Chair COLLINS. Thanks to all the appropriators and their staffs and my staff, as well, that worked so hard on this. Let's make sure we keep last week's momentum going so we can finish the job.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

Mr. President, on the Biden budget, yesterday, President Biden released a budget proposal laying out a bold, optimistic, responsible path for America. The President's budget shows the stark contrast between the Democrats' positive, proactive vision and the Republican's negative, regressive vision for our Country.

Democrats want to lower costs for working families. President Biden's budget includes actions to reduce the price of prescription drug costs, to cut taxes for middle- and low-income Americans, and to restore the child tax credit.

Republicans have made it clear they have no interest in lowering costs for working families and would rather help the wealthy get even wealthier.

Democrats want to protect programs like Social Security and Medicare. President Biden's budget protects and strengthens these vital programs, which tens of millions of Americans rely on every single day.

Republicans have fought relentlessly to slash funding for Social Security and Medicare, which would have devastating consequences for the American people.

Democrats want to make the Tax Code fairer, while cutting the deficit. President Biden's budget ends the reckless Trump-era tax scam that overwhelmingly cut taxes for the wealthiest few and large corporations. It left working families out to dry.

And President Biden's budget proposes measures to cut the deficit by nearly \$3 trillion—\$3 trillion—over the next decade.

This is the President's budget in a nutshell: lower costs, stronger Social Security, stronger Medicare, more investments in America and the American people, all while reducing the deficit. That is something we can all get behind.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mr. President, finally, on the VA IVF rule, after the stunningly radical decision by the Alabama Supreme Court jeopardizing access to IVF, yesterday, Americans received some encouraging news. Yesterday, the VA announced it is expanding access to IVF to more of our veterans, giving many more of our Nation's heroes the opportunity to raise and grow a family.

Senator MURRAY has been a decades-long champion of expanding IVF access to our veterans and servicemembers, and I thank her for her work, which no doubt helped make yesterday's announcement possible.

Our veterans and servicemembers have sacrificed so much for our country. We owe it to them to provide, protect, and expand access to health services like IVF.

Democrats remain absolutely committed to doing everything we can to protect women, families, and reproductive freedom—especially for those who have served our country in uniform.

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.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, President Biden released his budget request for the next fiscal year. Here is the top line: He wants the American people to take on more than \$16 trillion in cumulative deficits over the next decade. The President who told the Nation last week that he was cutting the deficit just put out a budget request that would do the exact opposite.

Unfortunately, this is hardly the only pledge that President Biden's request would break. After repeatedly promising not to raise taxes on households making less than \$400,000 a year, the President is now selling a plan that would heap \$5 trillion in new and expanded taxes on American workers and job creators.

Let's put this in perspective. The Biden administration's budget proposal would raise taxes as a share of the U.S. economy to levels our Nation hasn't seen since World War II.

Let me say that again. President Biden wants to bring taxes as a share of GDP higher than they have been since the middle of the fight against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

Now, I have been pretty frank in my assessment that the threats America is facing today are as dangerous as we have seen since the Cold War, if not the era of the Axis Powers. But here is the rub: The President apparently only wants to tax the American people at wartime levels. By contrast, he shows no interest in the sort of defense investments that were needed to squeeze the Soviets in the 1980s, let alone to liberate Europe and Asia in the 1940s.

It is far more expensive to fight wars than to deter them. American defense spending during World War II spiked at 37 percent of GDP; during the Korean war, 14 percent of GDP; Vietnam, 9 per-

cent of GDP. By contrast, the Reagan buildup that helped end the Cold War hit only 6 percent of GDP in 1986. But today, in a renewed era of major power competition, the Biden administration appears to lack the will even to sustain such credible deterrence.

Here lies another broken promise: After engaging in political hostage-taking over the debt limit last year, the Biden administration apparently doesn't intend to honor their own agreement on spending limits. The latest budget request uses accounting gimmicks to blow clear through agreed-upon limits for domestic discretionary spending. Yet, at the same time, administration officials insist it should "not have been a surprise" that the President sees spending caps on national defense as sacrosanct.

Of course, this reckless behavior follows a predictable pattern. Under this Commander in Chief, U.S. military faces the same historic inflation as everyone else in our country. As gas and groceries get more expensive, so do the capabilities our servicemembers need.

Yet this is the fourth straight time the Biden administration has turned in a defense budget request that amounts to a net cut after inflation. Apparently, the President hadn't yet learned the lessons of Bidenomics; instead, for more than 3 years, a global superpower has responded to growing coordination amongst its major adversaries, a restored haven for terrorists in Afghanistan, the first major land war in Europe since 1945, the deadliest slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust on October 7 in Israel, and breakneck military spending and modernizations from our top strategic rival but cutting our own military strength.

In a budget request full of gross excess in all the wrong places, neglecting the national defense is the takeaway that history will remember as the most alarming.

NOMINATION OF ADEEL ABDULLAH MANGI

Mr. President, now on another matter, when a nominee finds himself in trouble, it is interesting to note how people react. It has been particularly notable in the case of President Biden's radical pick for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

I have spoken many times about Mr. Mangi, first to lay out his highly troubling affiliation with a center that promoted anti-Semitism and Islamic terror and then to explain his equally disturbing affiliation with those who would enable cop killers.

We have received letter after letter from Jewish organizations and police groups expressing their outrage at this nomination. The hurt they express is particularly palpable.

But Democrats have gone into overdrive to keep this foundering pick. They have breathlessly invoked his religious identity, continuing their recent practice of asserting that demographics alone are a sufficient reason to justify life tenure on the Federal bench.

They have shaken the bushes for new letters of support, and the results have been interesting, to say the least. One came from Muslims for Progressive Values, MPV. This came as no surprise given that Mr. Mangi served on their board as recently as 2020.

Basic research into the organization makes me wonder what he ever did to deserve such an endorsement. For example, MPV has called on the U.N. to monitor domestic law enforcement tactics due to systemic racism. They have recommended viewing a video with an anti-racism expert who suggested that a notorious cop killer was an innocent "political prisoner." MPV's social media showcases post after post describing Israel's response to Hamas as genocide and accusing Israel of war crimes. It is nothing less than sustained opposition against an American ally.

Republicans presented evidence that Mr. Mangi aligns himself with anti-Israel radicals and supporters of cop killers. His defenders responded with an indignant letter from an organization of anti-Israel radicals who support cop killers.

Mr. Mangi's nomination is in a quicksand of radicalism. The more the Biden administration tries to save it, the more radicalism pulls it down.

Contrast this with Mr. Mangi's law firm. While his extremist friends from his radical boards are doubling down on their support, Mr. Mangi's elite firm seems to be saying "not so fast, he doesn't speak for us."

During the Judiciary Committee investigation into this nominee, they found that his firm is a listed sponsor of a law fellowship at the same anti-Semitic center at Rutgers that Mr. Mangi advised. But now a look at the center's website will show that the law firm's name has been removed. Indeed, the firm confirmed to the Judiciary Committee that it asked to be removed after learning about the center's outrageous activities. The firm said, "Having had the opportunity to review" the center's activities, it "will not continue to support."

Traditional liberals are distancing themselves from Mr. Mangi while radicals embrace him.

The Senate should reject him.

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

The Republican whip.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, President Biden came to Congress on Thursday night to deliver the State of the Union Address. And, unfortunately, it was exactly what you might expect from the President: the same old tired tax-and-