

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

spend proposals, a far-left agenda, and a couple—or I should say—a complete failure to address some of the biggest challenges facing the country.

Let's step back in time for a minute to the beginning of the President's administration. Mr. President, 3 years ago this month, the President signed into law a massive and partisan \$1.9 trillion spending bill under the guise of COVID relief, despite the fact that Congress had just passed a fifth—fifth—bipartisan COVID bill that met, essentially, all current pressing COVID needs.

Economists, including some left-leaning economists—warned at the time that the bill ran the risk of setting off inflation. But Democrats and the President proceeded anyway. And every American knows what resulted—an inflation crisis that saw inflation reach its highest level in more than 40 years. An inflation crisis that, 3 years later, still—still—isn't over.

But if you thought 3 years of inflation had taught President Biden to be wary of excessive government spending, you would be wrong. The President's State of the Union address was bursting with ideas for new spending—and new taxes to go along with them.

Yet the President had the audacity to claim that he is “delivering real results in fiscally responsible ways.”

Well, when you have passed an unnecessary \$1.9 trillion spending bill that plunged the country into an inflation crisis from which it has not still emerged, I would think you might be cautious about asserting any claims to fiscal responsibility.

But the President isn't overly troubled by the facts in these matters. He went on to assert that he has cut the Federal deficit by more than \$1 trillion, a deceptive claim he has repeated so often that it earned him a “Bottomless Pinocchio” from the Washington Post's Fact Checker column.

As CNN put it in its State of the Union fact check, “Biden's actions have clearly added to deficits.”

Mr. President, the President's address featured lots of new spending ideas and proposals for new taxes. What it didn't feature was solutions to the challenges that are actually facing the American people.

The President didn't get around to discussing the border and inflation—two of the biggest issues on the minds of Americans—until around halfway through his speech. And even then—even then—it was not to offer solutions; it was to dodge responsibility for these crises.

Despite the fact that the crisis at our southern border is a direct result of President Biden's policies, the President spent his entire discussion of the border suggesting that it is Congress's responsibility to act.

President Biden created this border crisis, and he has the power to end it. And he could start today.

For example, the President could crack down on abuse of the asylum sys-

tem by tightening the standard for asylum claims, which could help weed out many of the specious claims that are being made that allow individuals to get years of, essentially, legal permanent residence.

But I don't think the President is really interested in securing the border. He is interested, however, in preventing the border crisis from hindering his reelection. So he is taking steps to put the blame anywhere but on himself.

As for inflation, well, the President has tried a variety of tactics for messaging on inflation, from minimizing the crisis to blaming it on others. In the State of the Union, he trotted out his latest blame-deflecting strategy, complaining about so-called shrinkflation. I hate to tell the President this, but a 10-percent shrinkage in the size of a Snickers bar is not the reason why Americans are paying \$1,000 more a month these days to maintain the same standard of living they had when the President took office. Shrinkflation is not an explanation for the inflation crisis the President helped create. It is just one more attempt by the President to shift the blame.

There are a lot of other things I could say about the President's speech. I could talk about the President once again touting his Green New Deal policies, including his plan to install 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations, even as our electric grid heads for disaster. I could talk about how disappointed I was that the President chose to resurrect the ugly moments early in his Presidency when he and his Democratic colleagues attempted to manufacture a nonexistent voter suppression crisis in order to justify legislation to give Democrats a permanent advantage in elections.

And, of course, I thought it was deeply sad that the President's definition of freedom seems to be mostly centered around abortion. The way the President made it sound in his speech, the core American freedom these days is the right to kill unborn Americans.

Well, there is a lot more to say, but I will stop here. Suffice it to say that if Americans were looking for solutions to the challenges facing our country, they did not hear them in the State of the Union.

I yield the floor.

JASMINE HYEJUNG YOON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Jasmine Hyejung Yoon to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

Ms. Yoon received her B.A. with distinction from the University of Virginia and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. After beginning her legal career in private practice with Cromwell & Moring LLP, she clerked for Judge James C.acheris of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. She then served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the East-

ern District of Virginia from 2010 to 2016, serving in both the Richmond and Alexandria Divisions. As an AUSA, she investigated and prosecuted over 80 financial crimes, including those involving public corruption, bribery, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

After spending a few years as associate director of annual giving for the University of Virginia Law School Foundation, Ms. Yoon became the associate university counsel in the University of Virginia Office of the University Counsel. In this role, she worked with the Virginia Attorney General's Office and the university to provide legal advice to the board of visitors and university leadership on matters ranging from risk and liability management, to campus security and safety. In 2021, she took over as interim university counsel and led the team of attorneys in the office of university counsel.

Since 2022, Ms. Yoon has been the vice president for corporate integrity, ethics, and investigations at Capital One Financial Corporation, where she handles all internal investigations, ethics programs, and anti-corruption programs.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Ms. Yoon “well qualified” to serve on the Federal bench, and she has the strong support of both of her home State Senators, Mr. WARNER and Mr. Kaine. Her breadth of experience and knowledge of the Western District of Virginia make her well-positioned to serve on the bench with distinction.

I strongly support this nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for her confirmation.

Mr. THUNE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that—and I don't think my remarks will go over 5 minutes, but if they extend beyond a minute or 2, that I be able to finish my remarks before we go to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

NOMINATION OF JASMINE HYEJUNG YOON

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Ms. Jasmine Yoon, whom President Biden has nominated to serve as a U.S. district court judge for the Western District of Virginia.

For the last decade and a half, Jasmine has served as an invaluable asset to Virginia's legal community, offering both a unique zeal for public service and an incredible life story.

Jasmine came to this Nation at age 14 from South Korea, speaking virtually no English. All through eighth