

not a banana republic.” They are not. They are a democracy.

My Democratic colleagues here in the Senate have said quite a bit about foreign election interference and attacks to democracy in recent years, with Senate leadership saying in 2019 that “foreign election interference cannot be ignored” and that our government “must make clear that the cost of trying to interfere with American elections will be dear” or, from another leader, calling it “reprehensible” . . . “that the American people would not have the last word, that there would be other factors and other people, other countries engaged in our election.”

That is exactly what was called for last week. The words of my colleagues ring as true then as they do now. No one but the American people should have a say in our democracy and how our country is run. But that same protection needs to be applied to our allies in free and fair democracies and the rights of their citizens to choose the leaders that guide their country and represent their interests. That is especially true when it comes to an ally at war such as Israel.

My Republican colleagues and I recognize this as hypocrisy, and it is shocking to me that our President, President Biden, would support these comments.

Unfortunately, this isn’t the first time we have seen this level of hypocrisy from the other side of the aisle. Let’s talk about energy policy debates. We saw the other party praise the EPA’s electric vehicle mandates just yesterday without recognizing that they are the ones who are forcing closures of powerplants through policies like Clean Power Plan 2.0, cutting off the very baseload power that these supposed electric vehicles are going to need to operate.

I mean, there is a bit of hypocrisy. We have not enough power, and we are telling people when and how to run their heat, yet we are going to tell them what types of cars they need to have by 2032. As a data point, 7.6 percent of cars sold in the United States last year were electric vehicles. The goal is to get almost 70 percent of those cars by 2032.

In the State of West Virginia, new vehicles, electric vehicles: 1.1 percent. They kind of don’t do so great on those hills in the middle of the cold. I am just saying.

On issues regarding the economy, we have seen the passage of trillions of dollars in reckless spending and increased taxes by the Democrats that lead to high inflation, only for the President to establish a Strike Force on Unfair and Illegal Pricing to blame others for the impacts of their policies. He is also worried about how many chips are in a bag. We got that at the State of the Union. Or even regarding the foundation of the rules that this body stands on. We have seen Senate Democrats wage war to remove the filibuster in recent years—the same rule

they fought tirelessly to protect while they were in the minority. Now many of them signed on to the letters.

Perhaps one of the greatest hypocrisies we have seen on display was when the President delivered his campaign rally disguised as a State of the Union Address a few weeks ago.

When he was sworn into office, one of the biggest promises he made was to unite this country. Instead, in that speech, he alienated us, disparaged us—anybody who disagrees with his policies.

This continued hypocrisy and these political games are not lost on the American people. They want election officials to stand for their interests and to deliver on what they are going to do. This is a central tenet to effective government and something that guides my work on behalf of West Virginians every single day.

I, along with my fellow Senate Republicans—and I see my colleague from Nebraska here—will continue our efforts to lead our country toward a stronger future and to call out these pretenses when we see them.

NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS WORKERS SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize Gabe White. His family is here at the Capitol today. He is a West Virginian who tragically lost his life a year ago, I believe, this week.

Gabe is a native of Gilmer County. He was 20 years old when he passed away. It was as a result of a barge accident in Follansbee, WV.

At the request of his family, Senator MANCHIN and I have introduced a resolution to declare March 22—the date of Gabe’s tragic passing—as National Inland Waterways Workers Safety Awareness Day. It is our hope to ensure that similar accidents such as this will never happen again.

The resolution is currently moving towards passage in the Senate, and I would encourage my colleagues to support this.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Tennessee.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I rise today as the Senate again finds itself facing a potential government shutdown due to the majority leader’s political games. And again, the Senate must consider what we will do in response to the grave national security crisis that is emanating from our southern border.

It is *deja vu* from 2 weeks ago, when I offered a simple amendment regarding just one corrosive, anti-Democratic effect of this crisis. My amendment would have stopped illegal aliens from being counted for allotting congressional seats and, therefore, electoral college votes.

It did so by requiring the census to determine basic population statistics—like the number of citizens, noncitizens, and illegal aliens who are living

in this country—and by requiring that only U.S. citizens be counted for the purposes of determining the number of House seats and the number of electoral college votes in America.

Currently, illegal aliens are counted when determining Americans’ representation in government and the worth of their vote. The more illegal aliens and noncitizens in your State or district, the greater your voting power in Congress and in Presidential elections.

This means that in a State like California—or a city like New York—millions of illegal aliens result in several more congressional seats and electoral votes for that jurisdiction.

That helps explain why the majority leader worked so fervently 2 weeks ago to avoid a vote on my amendment—until it was clear that such obstruction would lead to a government shutdown. It also explains why every single Democrat voting on my amendment opposed it. Because when it comes to the census, the majority leader believes that “every person must be counted.” Evidently, that means illegal aliens too.

And with respect to commonsense proposals like mine—to count citizens, not illegal aliens—for apportioning voting power in America, what does the majority leader have to say? Well, he calls it an attempt to weaponize the census.

Really? That is quite rich. Aren’t Democrats weaponizing the census by counting people living in our country illegally? Do we count diplomats? Do we count people who are here on vacation? Why would we count people who are here illegally? That is the essence of weaponizing the census.

Here is what is really going on. Several weeks ago, video emerged of a Democrat House Member from the majority leader’s home State in which she called for more illegal immigration to her district for redistricting purposes.

What she means is that Americans are fleeing blue cities and States en masse because of bad government, but congressional seats are allocated based on population. So if you are losing population, you either have to backfill it or lose congressional seats.

This Representative stated that, because of her population loss, she needed to fill her district with illegal aliens to keep from losing her seat. That is exactly what my amendment would have prevented.

The Representative who made these comments is not only from the same State as the majority leader but she represents the same district that the majority leader formerly represented when he served in the House of Representatives.

This is the same district which houses James Madison High School. You remember James Madison High School. That is the school that cleared out its own students to make room for illegal alien housing. It is even the high school that the majority leader

himself attended. You talk about weaponizing the census.

If you don't believe me, listen to what New York City is saying itself. Just last week, New York City announced that it is challenging the 2023 Census Bureau annual estimates, arguing that the government failed to count some 50,000 illegal aliens currently in the city. They are desperate to count these illegal aliens because 727,000 people have moved out of New York since 2020. They have got to backfill that population to preserve their Federal influence.

It is clear why the majority leader and my Democrat colleagues voted against any change to the census. It is not because they are afraid that Republicans will weaponize it; it is because Democrats already have weaponized it.

Prior to this vote, the concept was decried by Democrats in the media as a "conspiracy theory." Democrats' unanimous vote against ending this practice changed it from a conspiracy theory to a conspiracy—period.

It is why they have done nothing to secure our southern border, and it is why there is no outrage from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle when confronted with the fact that the number of illegal aliens who have entered the United States since Biden took office exceeds the population of 36 States. And President Biden and Democrats aren't just sitting back and allowing the crisis at our southern border to unfold; they are actively encouraging it.

For example, President Biden has been secretly flying hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens from foreign countries into blue-city airports across the United States in order to resettle them there.

Earlier this month, scarce details emerged regarding the administration's secret flights. They revealed that more than 320,000 illegal aliens were flown directly into the United States last year alone. One can't help but wonder whether the President is trying to make it even easier for blue States to backfill their declining populations and shore up their political power by delivering these illegal aliens directly to them.

Flying migrants from foreign countries into the United States in the midst of a record-shattering illegal immigration crisis is completely absurd. I plan to soon file an amendment to the appropriations bill that would prohibit the Biden administration from doing this.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense measure.

The question is simple: Are Democrats willing to allow a vote on my amendment to stop President Biden from using secret flights to import hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens into the United States? Or are they so desperate to preserve this political power grab that they can't risk the

possibility of losing it by allowing such a vote to occur?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

ISRAEL

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, on October 7, Hamas—a terrorist organization—committed a horrible atrocity on the people of Israel. Over 1,100 people were killed, hundreds taken hostage.

We must support Israel to destroy this terrorist organization called Hamas. We must get our five American hostages back, and all the hostages must be released. We need to have an ironclad friendship with Israel to get this done.

This seems obvious to most Americans. However, on the floor of this very institution, the majority leader got up and called for new elections in Israel; and Israel's Prime Minister, he said, was the obstacle to peace.

It is absolutely outrageous the majority leader would make that speech from this floor while we have five American hostages being held by a terrorist group. He was pandering to the fringe anti-Israel, pro-Hamas wing of his party. It is despicable. It is terrible that he would undermine an ally of ours who shares our values, who has a democratically elected government, and undermine them in their hour of need when they are fighting against a terrorist organization.

This is good versus evil. The atrocities Hamas committed were barbarous, uncivilized. And yet the majority leader took their side.

Americans know Hamas must surrender—Hamas must surrender and release the hostages—and that we need to support Israel until Hamas is destroyed.

So what was the majority leader doing? Well, was he really concerned about the elections in Israel, or was he concerned about our elections? Pandering to the pro-Hamas terrorist wing of his party, somehow trying to distance himself from Israel—it is unbelievable.

Now, President Joe Biden, on October 7, talked the talk. He said we would stand with Israel no matter what. But the President called the majority leader's speech a good speech. He has been backing away from our ally Israel.

There are even reports that he is considering conditioning some of the aid to meeting Hamas's conditions. This is outrageous. What do you think Hamas does when they see the President of the United States start to step back from our ally?

If they were going to negotiate a cease-fire and somehow release hostages, you know that this is actually the opposite of what they are going to do now. They know if the President is weakening, the longer they hold out, the better their position is. It is the opposite of what we should be doing.

Hamas is a terrorist organization and understands one and one thing only, and that is strength. We need a Presi-

dent who is going to project that strength—project the strength and support our ally Israel. That is what would bring our hostages home. That is what would bring all the hostages home.

Let Israel do the work of civilized nations and destroy this terrorist organization. That is what needs to happen.

Everyone in America knows it is not the Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu who is the obstacle to peace; it is Hamas who is the obstacle to peace.

Hamas started this. October 6 there was a cease-fire. They broke it on October 7. Hamas is responsible for every death on October 7 and every death since then. They are the obstacle to peace.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues and remind the majority leader that Hamas is a terrorist organization that is the obstacle to peace, not our friend and ally Israel.

I will point out to him what Americans know: that this is a terrorist organization that needs to be destroyed. We must stand with Israel. I am proud to say I stand with Israel. The majority leader and the President must reverse course and stand with Israel as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak about the President's most recent attacks upon the freedoms of the American people. This week, the Biden administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, announced that it is going to put stringent new limits on gas-powered cars.

In effect, this delusional new regulation is attempting to kill the sale of gas-powered cars in America and, in doing so, try to force every American to buy an electric car.

President Biden seems to want to regulate every room in the house of the American people. He started in the kitchen with our stoves, continued throughout the house, and now he is headed to the garage. This is a coercive crusade, and it is a crusade against consumer choice. It is a crusade against convenience and also against affordability.

Last year, less than 1 in 10 of the vehicles sold in this country were electric vehicles. Under this new rule, Biden is demanding that the EVs make up two-thirds of all new car sales by the year 2032. Apparently, the administration thinks it is smarter than everyone else. They want to pick what you can drive and punish people who choose to drive something different. Why? Well, it is all in the name of the smug superiority of the coastal elites who think they ought to be running the country.

Now, this is the crux of the new Biden car ban. Driven by this blind faith in the climate religion regardless of the cost to our country in terms of energy being affordable, available, or reliable. The costs are real, and they