

we will certainly miss him as he steps down from his longtime post as director of government affairs for the AFL-CIO.

Ever since his early days in the labor movement, when he worked for the National Treasury Employees Union, the American Federation of Government Employees, and the United Mine Workers, Bill has been at the forefront of improving working conditions. He continued that fight while serving at the Department of Labor and on the staff of former Vice President Al Gore.

In 2001, after the AFL-CIO President, John Sweeney, hired Bill to lead his congressional efforts, Bill quickly got to work, organizing lobbying and grassroots efforts, communicating with Senators, Members of Congress, the administration, and AFL-CIO union members. Bill quickly gained the trust of members through his candor, his dedication, and his pragmatism. Through his partnership with the AFL-CIO's next president, Rich Trumka, Bill brought the labor movement's legislative efforts to new heights.

Bill was a tireless advocate, working closely with us on critically important issues such as the Employee Free Choice Act, the Affordable Care Act, the Border Security Care Act of 2013—man, our country would have been better off had that bill passed the House—the pensions bill, Chips, Infrastructure, the Inflation Reduction Act, and so much more.

We may not have won every battle, but we were always there fighting to improve the lives of working men and women.

I wish Bill the best as he moves on to new challenges, and I am comforted in knowing he will still be involved in the fight for progress.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

PROTESTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for months, the most elite corners of American higher education have made headlines for all the wrong reasons. Unfortunately, they are still finding new ways to embarrass themselves with vile, anti-Semitic radicalism, beginning, of course, with yet more alarming declarations like “Burn Tel Aviv to the ground,” “Freedom for Palestine means death to America,” “The 7th of October is going to be every day for you.”

The student radicals behind hateful chants like “from the river to the sea” have proven to be incoherently ecumenical. They have chanted “Long

Live Hamas”—a Sunni terrorist group—and waved flags supporting the Shia terrorist group, Hezbollah, and the secular Marxist-Leninist terrorist group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

They have been joined on the picket lines by faculty members for whom radical anti-Semitism is merely an extension of their day jobs in post-modern indoctrination.

Last week, Columbia's encampment was even visited by a Member of Congress who accused some Jewish students of being “pro-genocide.”

It is unclear whether the student radicals or the shadowy groups organizing these disruptions are actual “fifth columns” for adversaries trying to corrode American society from within or just unwitting pawns. What is clear is that basic comprehension of history, theology, and geography is in very short supply in the Ivy League.

But so-called elite universities aren't just in the news for a well-documented decline in academic rigor. They are not drawing the Nation's attention just because another generation of students has decided to test the limits of the First Amendment with grotesque hate. No, no, they are in the news because weakness and inaction from campus leaders has allowed universities to become cauldrons of criminal chaos.

In recent days, an Orthodox Jewish student at Yale was assaulted by organized hate-mongers. At MIT, there is a so-called “liberated zone” of radicals occupying the very center of campus. At UCLA, aspiring commissars have blocked Jewish students from walking to class or even entering the library. Another California school is reporting millions of dollars in damages after radicals vandalized campus buildings.

And last night brought yet more evidence that administrators at Columbia have utterly—utterly—failed to bring order to their Manhattan campus. In the wee hours of the morning, the mob that has disrupted daily life from a tent encampment on the quad broke into a campus building with hammers and has barricaded itself inside.

Not long ago, Columbia's president was sensibly calling in the New York Police Department to disperse and arrest these disrupters. This was a responsible thing to do because the vast majority of students at Columbia want to go to class, study for exams, and lead productive lives. But, then, her resolve appeared to give out. A minority of radicals and their faculty allies have used continued threats and intimidation to maximize the disruption and extend the reach of an odious ideology. The administration caved. The campus is now closed. But law enforcement remain outside the gates, and it remains to be seen whether administrators' latest threats of expulsion will actually be carried out.

The situation at Columbia is so bad that a prominent rabbi urged Jewish students to leave campus out of fear for their physical safety. This is par-

ticularly discouraging at a university that for decades has been known as a welcoming home for Jewish students, even when the rest of the Ivy League systematically discriminated against them.

Yesterday, a member of Columbia's Jewish community filed a class action lawsuit against the university, alleging sustained harassment and incitement of violence against Jewish students. In the absence of leadership from administrators, the community has had to take protection of their basic rights on campus literally into their own hands.

Of course, today's campus radicals did not invent this brand of aggressive lawlessness. Here in the United States, they trace their roots back to the 1960s. Other countries, too, have had their own infamous histories of student intimidation and violence—most notoriously, the student Nazis of Weimar Germany.

Education never has anything to do with it. It is about dangerous, radical politics. But just as the roots of this hate are not a mystery, neither is the way forward for college administrators.

Leaders at Columbia might do well to note the approach of the administration over at Princeton, which has upheld clear prohibitions on activity like forming encampments and responded swiftly and severely to an attempt last night to occupy a campus building.

They might also take a cue from our former colleague Ben Sasse. Thus far, radicals at the University of Florida have largely heeded his prohibition against unlawful disruptions because they know he means it. And, last night, those who failed to obey repeated warnings from campus police were promptly arrested. As an official statement put it, “The University of Florida is not a daycare, and we do not treat protesters like children—they knew the rules, they broke the rules, and they'll face the consequences.”

It is not enough for administrators to lament campus disorder. Strongly worded warnings only carry weight when they are backed up by action. The hateful ideas pouring out of campus encampments are not new to America's universities. The world's oldest form of hate has been alive and well in higher education for quite some time now. From the vile “boycott, divest, and sanction” movement that began over a decade ago to the establishment of outfits like the Rutgers Center for Security, Race and Rights, the forces of bigotry have been on the move.

And those forces have powerful friends. President Biden's nominee for the Third Circuit, Adeel Mangi, has long been a patron of the Rutgers center. In fact, as new evidence indicates, he has played a much more active and enthusiastic role than he described to our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee.

Apparently, every progressive organization in the country is furious—furious—that my colleagues and I have

dared to call attention to these disqualifying facts. So let's get it straight: Radicalism has no place in higher education or on the Federal bench.

Unfortunately, the President doesn't seem to agree. While he defends Mr. Mangi and his radical associations, he refuses to render an unqualified rejection of campus anti-Semitism. In fact, when asked about it, he seemed to say: Well, there are good people on both sides.

It is hard not to see this mealy-mouthed equivocation for what it is: a President prioritizing the feelings of his political supporters over moral clarity.

Anti-Semitism is not a nuanced academic theory. It is not just one of many "difficult viewpoints," as the White House Press Secretary seemed to suggest yesterday in reference to campus disruptions. It is not justified by political disagreements with Israel and its government. It is not entitled to take over campuses and make life miserable for Jewish students.

Luckily, some reasonable observers are getting mugged by reality. Just as a growing number of Democrats are rejecting Mr. Mangi's nomination, a growing number of prominent Ivy League alumni are rejecting the surging radicalism of their alma maters.

But that will only go so far. Leaders must lead. Administrators must take charge of their institutions. The basic objectives here couldn't be clearer: On campus, protect Jewish community members. Clear the encampments. Let students go to class and take their exams. And allow graduations to proceed.

Here in Washington, withdraw radical nominees and force the Departments of Justice and Education to investigate civil rights violations.

If moral clarity does not prevail—in the ivory tower and in the Biden administration—this could go down as a particularly shameful moment in our history.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. ERNST. 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.

REMEMBERING COLONEL RALPH PUCKETT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, typically, legends emerge long after individuals or events they commemorate have passed into history; however, the legend of COL Ralph Puckett was present among us for decades.

Ralph Puckett, Jr., was a giant of a man in his accomplishments, duties, and passion. He started on his journey into legendary history when he graduated from West Point in 1949, commissioning as an infantry officer.

Following the outbreak of the Korean conflict in 1950, Lieutenant

Puckett volunteered to command the newly created Eighth Army Ranger Company. This freshly minted lieutenant was charged with turning non-infantry soldiers into battle-ready Rangers in only 5½ weeks, and to no one's surprise, he did it.

On November 25, 1950, the Rangers dismounted their vehicles under heavy fire and secured Hill 205 against an onslaught of North Korean fighters, who outnumbered them nearly 10 to 1. Lieutenant Puckett was instrumental in this effort. He called in supporting artillery fires dangerously close to his position. He intentionally exposed himself on six occasions, allowing the enemy force to focus on him while enabling his men to locate and kill the enemy.

Lieutenant Puckett was wounded twice in this battle, but he refused to be evacuated and instead chose to continue to lead his men while they repelled five consecutive counterattacks.

It wasn't until the sixth counterattack, with supporting artillery fires unavailable and in the face of almost certain death, that Lieutenant Puckett ordered his men to leave him behind due to his injuries and the chaos surrounding the close-quarters fighting. Instead of leaving their commander, two rangers fought their way to Lieutenant Puckett, and they dragged him to safety. For his actions, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Following the battle that nearly cost Lieutenant Puckett his life, he was sent to Fort Benning, GA, for recovery. There he met his future bride, Miss Jeannie Martin. They would later be married on November 26, 1952, the second anniversary of the battle.

Instead of retiring from military service, Lieutenant Puckett chose to serve as a combat arms officer at the U.S. Army Ranger School. In 1967, Lieutenant Colonel Puckett volunteered for a tour in Vietnam, where he once again led soldiers in combat, most notably during the Tet Offensive.

In 1971, after 22 years of service, Colonel Puckett retired from Active Duty, but that was not the end of Colonel Puckett's service.

When he and his family moved to Georgia in 1990, he devoted much of his time to speak on base and to teach leadership courses. He also participated in numerous field training exercises and visited soldiers serving all around the world to pass on the leadership and life lessons he learned during his multiple combat tours.

Colonel Puckett's influence extended to virtually every senior infantry officer and noncommissioned officer who served at Fort Benning—now Fort Moore—or within the 75th Ranger Regiment for nearly two decades. However, his mentorship wasn't limited to the men and women at the senior ranks. It resonated across all levels of our military.

Between his leadership while on Active Duty and mentorship after he re-

tired, Colonel Puckett influenced generations of servicemembers, including me. I was fortunate enough to meet Colonel Puckett when I worked on Fort Moore in the 1990s. When I was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from 2003 to 2004, Colonel Puckett, who had become a mentor, would write to me with words of advice and motivation. For a man of his stature and legacy to spend this time mentoring a young captain on deployment is just one small example of the character and tireless devotion of Colonel Puckett.

Rightly so, Colonel Puckett was an inaugural inductee into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame. He would go on to be the honorary colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment from 1996 to 2008. On May 21, 2021, Colonel Puckett's Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony that I was very, very privileged and fortunate to attend.

Colonel Puckett lived a life of devoted service to our Nation. His military awards include the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, three Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars with "V" device for valor, and five Purple Hearts. In addition, he has the Combat Infantryman's Badge with star, Special Forces Tab, and Ranger Tab.

Colonel Puckett was a legend—a legend of a man; a legend of a soldier; a legend of a ranger; a legend of a husband, father, and grandfather; and a legend of a citizen who knew no limits to serving his country.

After a literal lifetime of dedication and service to America, it is only fitting that we pay tribute to Colonel Puckett in the Rotunda of the Capitol to honor his sacrifices and the sacrifices of the Silent Generation and the more than 5,700,000 men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the "Forgotten War."

This country is forever in your debt for answering the call to fight against tyranny and oppression in the Korean conflict.

Mr. President, I ask that we take a moment of silence in memory of Colonel Puckett and the contributions he made both in and out of uniform and to acknowledge the sacrifices his family made when Colonel Puckett's duties took him away from home.

(Moment of silence.)

It has been a privilege and an honor to know such a man and to have walked in the footsteps of giants who have come before—giants such as COL Ralph Puckett, Jr.

May he rest in peace.

"Rangers Lead the Way!"

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

PROTESTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last week, the Senate completed a critical task to support our national security. After months of uncertainty, this