

Over the last few weeks, there has been a whole lot of attention about a policy platform drafted by the Heritage Foundation, arguably the most influential conservative think tank in America. The platform, in effect, is the Trump manifesto. The project is staffed by over 200 former officials of the Trump Presidency and is connected to Trump Cabinet members, former campaign advisers, political appointees, and more.

If you read through this Trump manifesto, it is very clear what the hard right is telling America: Put us in power, and we will gut America from the inside out.

Trump's manifesto calls for the most conservative agenda America has ever seen, one that makes 1964 Barry Goldwater look like a moderate.

The Trump manifesto lays the groundwork for a nationwide abortion ban and calls for removing mifepristone from the market. It calls for defunding the Department of Education.

The Trump manifesto calls for reversing Democrats' clean energy agenda, while empowering the Nation's biggest oil and gas polluters.

The Trump manifesto calls for silencing and attacking all of Donald Trump's political enemies. The hard right is done speaking in euphemisms. They are saying it straight to our faces: If you disagree with Donald Trump, watch your back.

To see this happen in America is bone-chilling.

MAGA's political threats are reminiscent of the autocratic fervor we saw in Europe in the early 20th century, and for the first time, we are wondering: Could it ever happen here in America?

I hope not, but it all keeps going.

The Trump manifesto also calls for defunding Federal law enforcement and replacing thousands of Federal personnel with individuals loyal, above all, to Donald Trump.

And, finally, of course, the Trump manifesto calls for more tax cuts for the very wealthy, more tax cuts for corporate elites, more tax cuts for megacorporations, and oil and gas polluters. This is really the end goal of MAGA extremism: tax cuts for the top 1 percent, dystopia for everybody else.

Donald Trump promised that he would be a dictator on day one, and this manifesto is the playbook for how he will follow through on that threat. It is dangerous. The damage may be irreversible. The destruction could be unthinkable. And it would be a betrayal of everything that our Framers fought for, that the Union fought for, that the "greatest generation" fought for.

Donald Trump cannot—must not—be allowed within 10 miles of the Oval Office ever again.

NATO

Mr. President, on NATO, this week, the United States will welcome NATO leaders to Washington for the 2024

NATO summit. Western democracy faces perhaps its gravest threat since the Cold War. So this year's NATO summit comes at an inflection point.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine rages on. Putin's cruelty—cruelty—shows no sign of softening. We read yesterday a heartbreaking and infuriating report. Russian missile strikes obliterated a wing of the largest children's hospital in Kyiv, killing at least 31 Ukrainians, injuring another 150.

Shooting a missile at a children's hospital that had no military significance is vicious; it is nasty. It shows what a scoundrel Putin is.

My heart breaks for those children in hospital whose lives were taken away in the attack, the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters drowning in grief. Again, this was the largest children's hospital in the Ukrainian capital, where kids who had cancer were going—a place that should be off limits to anyone who is a decent, honorable human being; who has at all a heart.

Putin has none of that—no decency, no honor, no heart—and it shows you how utterly morally bankrupt Putin's invasion of Ukraine truly is.

A lot of hard-right extremists led by Donald Trump tried to kill Ukraine aid earlier this year, but Putin's attack against the children's hospital shows why it is essential for America to stand with Ukraine. They are fighting an evil brute in Russia, and the worst thing America can do is show weakness against Putin or tell Ukraine we will abandon them. I am glad we stepped up earlier.

So as the NATO leaders gather in DC this week, nothing less than the future of Western democracy is at stake. President Biden will bring an unmistakable message to our NATO allies, as well as to our adversaries watching across the world: America will never turn its back on NATO.

My Senate colleagues and I will be honored to welcome the leaders of NATO here to the Capitol this week, as well as President Zelenskyy of Ukraine. We in the Senate will send President Zelenskyy and our NATO allies the same message we have shared from day one: America will never turn its back on you.

The same cannot be said for Donald Trump. Remember, it was Donald Trump who called NATO "obsolete" and said that he would encourage Russia to do "whatever the hell they want" to our NATO allies. Amazing. This is the wrong message to send to NATO, with so much at stake around the world. It is another example of why the MAGA hard right can't be trusted to lead on the global stage.

FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. President, finally, on one other point, the Fire Grants and Safety Act, which we passed here in the Senate, helping our firefighters to get the equipment they need, adding to certain fire departments the more firefighters that they need, making us all safer, making our firefighters safer, and, fi-

nally, renewing the old Fire Grants and SAFER Act that Senator Dodd and I passed back in 2002, is a great thing.

Today, the President will sign it. I salute President Biden for supporting this legislation and helping us get it through the Congress.

I salute our firefighters, both paid and volunteer, who rush to danger to protect us when there is danger afloat. God bless them. I am glad that the Fire Grants and Safety Act that backs them up will be signed into law in a few hours.

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.

NATO

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in 1949, 12 nations gathered here in Washington to establish the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Seventy-five years later, our Nation's Capital welcomes NATO's 32 members back for a pivotal summit.

The most successful military alliance in human history has shepherded the free world through serious challenges—from nuclear-armed Cold War, through vicious terrorist attacks, to a new chapter of multipolar competition. This has always been a collective effort, but it has always required American leadership, and today, America and our allies face a serious test of resolve.

Russian aggression, Iran-backed terror, unchecked nuclear proliferation from North Korea, and China's bid for hegemony aren't just regional concerns; they are facets of an increasingly coordinated threat to Americans' security and prosperity.

The transatlantic alliance faces doubts at home and abroad about the credibility of our commitment to uphold this order. All NATO allies will share the risks if it is undone. All of us will suffer if autocrats and despots succeed in rewriting rules and redrawing maps. Even still, on the occasion of the Washington summit, there are encouraging signs that NATO is rising to meet the challenges.

Two years on, brutal Russian escalation hasn't just woken European allies from decades of neglect for their military capabilities; it has spurred a sea change in defense policy all across Europe and a renaissance of investment in defense industrial bases and cutting-edge weapons.

Across Europe, America's allies are investing 18 percent more on their defenses than they were a year ago. More than two-thirds of NATO's members

have now met or exceeded the alliance's 2 percent defense spending target. Just as important, many are committing 20 percent of their defense budgets to procuring new weapons and capabilities.

But the latest data did more than confirm the end of our "holiday from history"; they also prove what I have been explaining to our colleagues for years: When America leads by example, allies invest right here in America. A full two-thirds of our allies' spending on new defense procurement is going to buy American-made weapons and systems. Right now, U.S. industry is filling more than \$140 billion in contracts booked by European allies.

Many allies also are expanding their own defense industrial capacity—an encouraging and necessary step that will make NATO even more resilient.

Of course, one of the most encouraging developments since the last NATO summit has been the addition of two strong, new allies with highly capable militaries and cutting-edge industrial bases of their own. It was a tremendous honor to work closely with the leaders of Finland and Sweden throughout their accession to the alliance, and I am proud to join the Democratic leader in hosting them on Capitol Hill this week.

Today, the enemies of Western peace and prosperity are giving us good reason—good reason—to take the strength of our alliances and partnerships even more seriously. The authoritarians and rogue states seeking to undermine us are working together, and we can't afford not to do the same. That is why all NATO allies need to take hard power more seriously; why the 2-percent defense spending target is a floor but is not a ceiling; why these spending increases must be built into base budgets, not treated as one-off emergencies; and why contracting and procurement have to move at the speed of relevance, not the speed of bureaucracy.

These lessons apply as much to America as they do to our European allies, and they apply even more so to our neighbor to the north. Canada is one of the only allies without a plan to reach the 2-percent spending target.

It is encouraging that as NATO members address the deficiencies of our own collective security obligations, we are joined this week by essential non-NATO partners who are taking increasingly clear-eyed approaches to their own security.

The presence of leaders from the Indo-Pacific is an especially powerful reminder of our shared stake in the future of a Western order that preserves the freedom of navigation, territorial integrity, and the right to self-determination.

I will have more to say as the week goes on, but I am grateful for the opportunity to welcome America's friends to Washington at this critical time, and I am hopeful that together, the alliance will make headway on the serious business before us.

ENERGY

Mr. President, on one final matter, last week, a Federal judge in Louisiana blocked the Biden administration's de facto ban on new permitting for the export of America's abundant liquefied natural gas.

As I have said before, the administration's so-called pause is bad policy for a whole host of reasons. It endangers good-paying American jobs and could drive high prices for energy and consumer goods through the roof.

Of course, when the flow of clean American LNG slows down, it also presents close allies and trading partners with the prospect of increased reliance on dirtier energy from less savory places.

The overwhelming majority of U.S. exports go to consumers in Europe and Asia, but as the Biden administration tries to choke off American market dominance, Russian export capacity is actually surging to meet demand. Russia is lining its war chest with the spoils of its energy exports, and it is quite literally fueling the war in Ukraine with the proceeds of what the President's own Energy Secretary has described as "the dirtiest form of natural gas on Earth."

It is a dizzying move from an administration that has, until now, put green activists in the driver's seat of its energy policy. As we learned last week, it doesn't pass muster in Federal court, where a judge ruled in favor of the 16 States that sued to block this ridiculous—ridiculous—moratorium. The judge agreed with the plaintiffs that the Department of Energy failed to justify the pause on LNG exports and that they failed to consider the "impact on national security, state revenues, employment opportunities, funding for schools and charities, and pollution allegedly caused by increased reliance on foreign energy sources."

Well, there you have it—the courts have slapped down the Biden administration's disregard for the law. Now it is time to release American energy projects from the regulatory purgatory where they have been trapped for far too long.

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.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Supreme Court recently concluded its term, and, as predicted, Democrats met the decisions they didn't like with howls of outrage. "We will fight to rein in the outrageous abuses of this brazen Court," one Democrat offered temperately. "We must expand the Court now," another cried, before it "destroy[s] our democracy and our

planet." Yet another announced that she would be filing impeachment articles against a Supreme Court Justice or Justices, presumably for the high crime of ruling in a way that she didn't like.

For years now—since at least the last administration—Democrats have been engaged in a concerted campaign to paint the Supreme Court as illegitimate and extreme. We have heard about "stolen seats" and "MAGA justices" and other melodramatic statements meant to persuade the American people that the Supreme Court has somehow been hijacked. But what it all boils down to is this: Democrats think that the only legitimate Supreme Court is a Supreme Court that rules in line with Democrats' policy preferences. That is it. That is what all of this boils down to.

Democrats can dress things up any way they like with a host of invented reasons for why this Court is illegitimate, but the truth of the matter is, Democrats' real problem with this Court is that a number of the Justices have had the temerity to periodically deliver rulings with which Democrats disagree. If this Court were universally delivering the outcome the Democrats want, they would have no problem with the Court or its Republican nominees.

I could spend time debunking Democrats' wild claims. I could point out just how often this Court delivers unanimous decisions. Yes, contrary to what you might think from Democrats' lurid statements, the Democrat nominees and the Republican nominees are frequently in unanimous agreement. Or I could talk about just how often some of the Court's more conservative Justices and some of the Court's more liberal justices agree. But I am not going to do that today because I would like to spend a minute talking about the profound irresponsibility Democrats are displaying.

We hear a lot from Democrats about their concern for our institutions, and yet they are attempting to delegitimize a bedrock American institution, all for the crime of periodically daring to deliver decisions with which Democrats disagree.

At a time of deep political division, I can think of few things more irresponsible than attempting to shake Americans' faith in the impartiality of the Court and the legitimacy of our institutions.

I realize that Democrats don't like it when a decision doesn't go their way, and I completely understand that. I have disagreed with a few Supreme Court decisions in my time. But it is one thing—a legitimate thing—to disagree with a decision; it is another thing entirely to let your disagreement lead you into attempting to delegitimize a duly constituted Court composed of nine duly confirmed Justices.

I hate to tell Democrats, but in a democratic republic such as ours, you don't always get your way, and the