

public's business in this great democracy of ours ought to be public.

Mr. Patel's experience and Mr. Patel's vision is why he has been endorsed by organizations representing more than 680,000 law enforcement officers and by dozens of former and current FBI agents, State attorneys general, and U.S. attorneys.

These people understand law enforcement. These people understand the rule of law, and these people who have endorsed Mr. Patel trust that he will do the right thing, and we should as well today by voting for Mr. Patel.

I want to speak now to those who have viciously opposed Mr. Patel's nomination. At the heart of their opposition is the fear that he will act like Democrats did when Democrats were in power. So these Democrats are afraid that the FBI, under Mr. Patel's leadership, will use lawfare against political opponents like the FBI used lawfare against President Trump and others.

These Democrats are afraid he will use subpoena power and coordinate with the media to target those seeking accountability just like Democrats did against Mr. Patel and, also, against my own investigative staff.

These Democrats are afraid that he will deploy the FBI to conduct investigations and engage in surveillance against those who disagree like they did with Catholic families and parents expressing concern at school board meetings.

These Democrats are afraid that he will retaliate against whistleblowers like the Biden administration did against FBI and IRS agents who blew the whistle.

After reviewing Mr. Patel's record and listening to his testimony at his hearing, I am convinced that these fears that the Democrats have are unfounded. Mr. Patel's leadership will not be business as usual in the FBI as it has been in previous administrations when the FBI, the people on the 7th floor—not the local agents—were used for political weaponization.

Mr. Patel told us at our hearing he wants to reduce FBI involvement in politics and domestic surveillance. Mr. Patel wants to end political investigations and strengthen protections for whistleblowers. Mr. Patel wants to make the FBI accountable once again, get back the reputation that the FBI has had historically for law enforcement, and he wants to hold the FBI accountable to Congress, to the President, and most importantly, to the people they serve, the American taxpayer.

My Democratic colleagues often lament that Mr. Patel won't protect the independence of the FBI, but there is a fine line between independent judgment and being unaccountable. The FBI has been unaccountable all too long.

My Democratic colleagues decry the recent firing of FBI agents and somehow want to blame Mr. Patel for those personal decisions. That isn't fair, ob-

viously, because he is not running the FBI. As my oversight has shown, many of those fired agents were behind the retaliation against multiple FBI whistleblowers. They ruined lives and careers for their own political hands. They should be held accountable, and, yes, they should have been and have been fired.

The FBI has also kept too many secrets. It has hid from the duly elected Members of Congress the origins of the lawfare against President Trump, which we all know and which I have shown in my exposure of a lot of emails, was in large part from the anti-Trump agent, Timothy Thibault.

Now based on testimony from soon-to-be Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, we know that the Biden DOJ and FBI violated process by not sharing evidence with Trump's defense team that could have helped Trump's case against the government.

If that happened—now, just think, if that happened on the Democrat side, you wouldn't hear the end of it. Yet, you can't hear a peep today from my Democratic colleagues. The government hid its investigations into those who dared to question the Democratic Party line.

But then, when it is convenient for political reasons, the FBI would leak or coordinate with the media to hide the truth and to smear people.

We need to restore transparency; we need to restore oversight; we need to restore accountability at the FBI, particularly on that top floor of the Hoover Building. Mr. Patel is exactly the man that can do that, and it is why those who benefit from the status quo have come so forcefully against him with a relentless smear campaign.

Mr. Patel is a reformer, and we need a reformer in the FBI. We need to restore the public trust, and we need to return the FBI to its core mission, which is to keep people on our streets safe.

The bottom line: It is the people doing the everyday work at the FBI, enforcing the law, solving crimes that the people on the 7th floor of the Hoover Building should be doing, instead of thinking about how we can get at our political enemies.

I will be voting to confirm Mr. Patel. I will urge my colleagues to do the same thing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, as I hear the senior Senator from Iowa, it is like I am living in another world. I am not alleging that Mr. Patel has an enemies list. He is the one that has said that. I am not alleging that he would use law enforcement against Donald Trump's political enemies, he is the one that has said that.

And so I will be voting no, and I hope I am wrong.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, the price of just about everything is going up right now. Any-

one that has been to the grocery store in the past few weeks knows how hard it is to find a dozen eggs. Since the President was inaugurated, the price of eggs has gone up by 15 percent, which is the single biggest monthly increase in 10 years.

The price of coffee is up 25 percent since the start of the year, and everything from gas to housing to car insurance is getting more expensive.

But I don't want people to worry because Republicans are on it. Donald Trump knows that the main thing people elected him to do is lower prices, and, rest assured, he is working day and night to fix it. Everybody knows that the best way to lower costs for individual Americans is to cut taxes for billionaires. Everybody knows that. If eggs are 8 bucks where you are living, obviously, cut taxes for billionaires. If coffee is increasingly expensive, cut taxes for billionaires.

That is the very first thing that Republicans in the new Congress have decided to do is cut taxes for the richest people to ever exist, and they are going to do it by making regular people pay.

Now, that might sound like a partisan accusation, and, of course, on some level, it is. But if you are sitting at home listening to the chatter about one big, beautiful bill or two bills, and you are wondering what it all means, here is what they are doing. They want to cut taxes for billionaires to the tune of about \$4.5 trillion—\$4.5 trillion.

And because they already blew up the Federal deficit in 2017 and because there are some House Republicans and maybe some Senate Republicans who won't vote for a package that increases the deficit, they actually need to find some savings elsewhere.

It is very hard to find \$4.5 trillion worth of savings. So what are they doing? They are having to cut programs and services that help people on a daily basis, hundreds of billions of dollars in Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act subsidies, and food assistance.

They are slashing funding for cancer research and disaster recovery and schools and national parks and VA clinics. They are laying off thousands of employees at Federal Agencies, one-third of whom are veterans.

And to be clear, this is not for the holy grail of efficiency. Food is rotting at the dock. Medicine is rotting. The National Park Service is already backed up. Normally, it takes 1 minute to get into a national park. In a lot of places—it is cold outside—it is taking 90 minutes to get into national parks. That is not efficiency.

They are laying off probationary people, but let's be clear what "probationary" means. It does mean new hires. It also means anybody who is getting a promotion. Someone who has performed well, the U.S. Government says: You are so good, we want you to do something even more important. So then you get put into this probationary category, and then you get laid off.

Why? Why? Because they need to find \$4.5 trillion worth of savings. That is what is going on.

As we speak, there are multiple outbreaks of diseases and illnesses within the United States. We are in the middle of the worst flu season in a decade, 13,000 Americans dead. Norovirus cases have skyrocketed by 340 percent this winter, and there have been 68 cases of the bird flu nationwide, not to mention that if you can find eggs at all, they are sometimes \$8 or \$10 for a dozen.

In Texas, 58 people—mostly children—have gotten measles, and that is to say nothing of Ebola and Marburg virus in eastern Africa. But don't worry. Trump is on it. And by "on it," I mean he is laying off the very people who are responding to these crises.

We learned yesterday that after DOGE fired officials at the Department of Agriculture who were working on containing the bird flu, they had to quickly backtrack to try to rehire them. Sometimes, they don't have these people's email addresses. Sorry, would you please come back? I don't know how to find you.

This is not efficiency. This is an arson job so they can generate savings so they can shovel \$4.5 trillion to the people on that stage at inauguration. That is what this is.

We are less than 2 months into the year, and we have already had four major deadly aviation disasters, including one right here in Washington over the Potomac. And Trump is firing hundreds of FAA employees, people who have jobs like maintenance mechanics, information specialists, safety assistants.

They actually asked a bunch of air traffic controllers to quit. We are short air traffic controllers. We have been short air traffic controllers for 6 or 7 years. As a matter of fact, when I was the chairman of the relevant committee, we worked on a bipartisan basis to put a lot of money behind hiring more air traffic controllers.

Now, you can be a conservative and think the government should be smaller or you can be a liberal and think the government should be bigger. I assume nobody thinks we should lay off air traffic controllers.

And if we are going to do that, it should be because something else even more urgent than air traffic control is at stake. But let's understand what is at stake. What is at stake is \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthiest people to ever walk this planet.

We are less than a month away from the March 14 funding deadline to keep the government open, and we don't even have topline numbers yet, let alone full committee bills. We are nowhere near a defense bill. But the only thing that Republicans are focused on right now, immediately, urgently, is cutting taxes for billionaires.

People are dying because of the flu and the bird flu? Let's cut taxes for billionaires. Airplanes are falling out of the sky? Let's cut taxes for billionaires.

People are losing their homes in wildfires in Los Angeles and floods in Kentucky? Let's cut taxes for billionaires. Families can't afford their healthcare or housing no matter how hard they work? Let's cut taxes for billionaires.

Kids are falling behind in school, with a third of eighth graders lacking basic reading skills? Let's cut taxes for billionaires. Trump is illegally cutting funding for pediatric cancer research and disease prevention? Let's cut taxes for billionaires.

Thousands of National Park Service workers fired? I know what we should do. Why don't we shovel a bunch of money to a bunch of billionaires?

Millions of people—millions of people—are on the verge of starvation, disease, and death because Trump suddenly and illegally suspended one of our primary arms of foreign policy: USAID. What is their solution? Not to exert any pressure on the State Department or the OMB or the President himself, let's cut taxes for billionaires. Anything and everything comes down to this. Why? Because it is the main thing they think about.

There are so many smart people on the other side of the aisle, so many people who have accomplished so much in their careers, and they are lighting it on fire for this man. The solution to every problem big or small, domestic or global, complex or simple is to cut taxes for billionaires.

This is their project. This is their reason for being. Whatever else has motivated them to run for office in the first place, this is the first thing they are doing, instead of a bunch of other stuff.

It doesn't have to be like this. You can be a Republican and give them their Cabinet and their judges and Justices, but, my God, stand up for this place. Why would you run for office and then just remove your frontal lobe and do whatever this man thinks?

It doesn't matter how much harm comes to your hospitals or your schools or your roads or the one-third of Federal workers who are veterans, the solution always is to cut taxes for billionaires.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

MR. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, you know, it was just 30 days ago that President Trump took the oath of office just down the hall here in the Rotunda. Thirty days later, he continues to betray the promises that he made to the American people when he was on the campaign trail.

He promised he would focus on reducing prices and costs that the American people have to bear. In fact, costs are going up. He promised to fight for working Americans, the forgotten Americans, but with the help of the richest man in the world Elon Musk, he is actually going about cutting very important public services to the American people in order to make way for

and pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest in this country—people like Elon Musk.

I come to the Senate floor today because we are in the process of setting up the framework in which that is going to happen. Republicans are bringing to the floor—probably tomorrow—a budget resolution that will set in motion that process of providing tax cuts for the very wealthy at the expense of other Americans.

That is a great betrayal by the Trump administration. But before I talk about that great betrayal by Donald Trump, I want to talk about another betrayal that is going on as we speak, and that is his betrayal of the Ukrainian people and everybody who yearns for and fights for freedom and democracy around the world.

What we are witnessing is not "America first"; we are witnessing "America in retreat."

The Ukrainian people, for over 3 years now, have been fighting against the brutal onslaught by Vladimir Putin. They are fighting to protect their sovereignty, their way of life. President Trump is throwing the Ukrainian people under the bus and at the same time betraying people who fight for freedom around the world.

You know, Donald Trump likes to pick on people he perceives as weaker. We all know that he made fun of people with disabilities. He likes to pick on people who have differences. But when it comes to other bullies, he is a weak, weak person. He backs down. And that is what we are witnessing with respect to Vladimir Putin—Donald Trump is backing down.

In fact, he just today blamed the Ukrainians and President Zelenskyy for Putin's attack on the Ukrainian people. In fact, he called Zelenskyy, President Zelenskyy, a dictator, when it is Vladimir Putin that is the dictator and launched the assault on the Ukrainian people.

We should all be ashamed—ashamed, Mr. President. I met with President Zelenskyy at the Munich Conference over the weekend, along with many of my Senate colleagues, a bipartisan delegation. All of us, Republicans and Democrats, said to President Zelenskyy: You have our continued support. The Ukrainian people have our continued support.

But at that same conference, we saw Vice President Vance not even talk about the threat from Putin and our support for the Ukrainian people. In fact, we heard him lecture the people from Europe and others around the world gathered at that conference about their "weak democracy" and say that really what they needed to do was kowtow to the farthest right parties in Germany, neo-fascist parties in Germany, and then, after saying that, he went out and met with them. That is now the U.S. foreign policy in action, and all of us on a bipartisan basis should be standing up and saying that is wrong.

Yet the Secretary of Treasury arrived to extort Zelenskyy, saying: Unless you give us half of your rare mineral reserves to pay for past support, you don't get any additional support from the American people.

Imagine if during World War II, FDR had said to Churchill and our other allies: Hey, we are no longer going to support you in the fight against fascism, Nazis, and Hitler unless you sign over now half of your natural resources.

This is a shameful moment for the United States. We have stood up for freedom, we have stood up for democracy, we have stood up for the rule of law, and now, President Trump is throwing Ukraine and freedom-loving people around the world under the bus.

So I say to our NATO allies and other allies around the world and partners who believe in the rule of law and believe in democracy: You are going to have to carry this mantle for now.

A lot of people say: Oh, that is just President Trump saying these things. Watch what he does, not what he says.

What an American President says matters, and when President Trump talks about abandoning Ukraine and how President Zelenskyy is the dictator and how Ukraine started the war, not Putin, that is throwing Ukraine and our NATO allies under the bus.

So our European allies, our European NATO friends—they are going to have to step up and clearly carry that mantle, and I really urge my Senate Republican colleagues to do so at this moment.

You know, it was Donald Trump who, in speaking about Americans who lost their lives in combat, said, "They are losers and suckers." That is what the now President of the United States said about Americans who sacrificed their lives for our country. Folks may also recall that is what he said about our former colleague Senator McCain because he was taken prisoner.

So I really hope that those in this Senate, in both parties, will stand up and stand up for the principles the United States has stood up for—not perfectly, far from perfectly, but what we have stood up for since World War II and in that postwar period where we helped construct many of the institutions that helped set the rules of the road in the globe today.

Now, here at home, we are also experiencing a betrayal. You know, I just was earlier today at a rally in front of the Department of Health and Human Services. It was a rally to protect the public health and specifically to help protect medical research that is conducted at the National Institutes of Health and at institutions around our country, colleges and universities and other places where they do the research that leads to treatments and cures that save lives in America.

It is pretty simple: When you start slashing funds for the NIH and its programs and when you start slashing the research team at NIH, it means more

Americans will die prematurely of disease; it means more Americans will suffer for lack of treatments. Yet, that is what we saw the Trump administration do recently.

Fortunately, a Federal court has put a stay on those illegal actions, these actions to just unilaterally try to cut important public investments in medical research.

So let's not sugarcoat it. The consequence of doing that is very serious. They do important research in cancer, in Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes, and other diseases, diseases that plague probably every American family, and rare diseases. Firing NIH employees and canceling important grants and reducing support for medical research will mean more Americans will die early.

So what is going on? Well, it is the great betrayal because the reason we are seeing these efforts to slash important public investments across the board and to cut important positions in Federal Agencies is because they want to make room for a big tax cut for wealthy people.

You can see that the person that Donald Trump, President Trump, has chosen to do his dirty work is Elon Musk, the richest person in the world, who is in the process of conducting illegal raids on various government Agencies. And I say "illegal raids"—I have never seen the courts so busy. I mean, courts are issuing temporary restraining orders because there is a lot of lawbreaking going on. We have to fight this in the courts, and we have to fight it here, and the American people are fighting it around the country.

This is the most corrupt bargain in American history. Elon Musk paid \$280 million—\$280 million—to help elect Donald Trump, and Donald Trump has now turned the keys to the Federal Government over to Elon Musk. And make no mistake, this has nothing—nothing—to do with government efficiency. We all welcome any effort to make the Federal Government more efficient. But this has nothing to do with that, and this has everything to do with helping the Federal Government serve the already powerful at the expense of working Americans and to clear that way—make cuts to pay for tax cuts for the very, very wealthy.

You know, during the Presidential campaign, Candidate Trump talked about reducing prices, lowering costs for American families. When he was asked about Project 2025, he said: I don't know what that is. I don't know who those people are.

But as soon as he was sworn in down the hall here, he went about implementing Project 2025. Now, why, on the campaign trail, would he say he knows nothing about it? He knew it was very unpopular. That, however, is exactly what he is implementing right now. In fact, the person he installed in the White House as the head of Office of Management and Budget was Russ Vought. He is the author of Project 2025.

And just a reminder to our colleagues, OMB is like the command and control center for the entire U.S. Federal budget. So President Trump put the author of Project 2025 in the cockpit for the Federal budget and has Elon Musk running and doing the dirty work at Federal Agencies around the country.

If this were about government efficiency, you wouldn't start out by firing all the inspectors general. The inspectors general job is to be independent watchdogs. Their job is to look out for waste, fraud, and abuse. So if you want to get rid of waste, fraud, and abuse, you don't start by firing the inspectors general. In fact, that is what you would do if you wanted to have people look the other way or not see when people were committing waste, fraud, and abuse.

In fact, that is exactly what is happening now because if you look at what Elon Musk and his cronies are doing, they are going into Federal Agencies and taking and reviewing and have access to the most sensitive personal information of the American people. They did it at the Department of Treasury—Social Security numbers, bank accounts.

The acting head of the Social Security Administration, a career official, just quit because she said it was inappropriate to turn over sensitive Social Security Administration information to Elon Musk and the DOGE boys.

We have seen that in other Agencies, too, where career Federal civil servants whose loyalty is to the country are resigning rather than follow illegal orders. I commend them for not following illegal orders.

If this were about efficiency, why would the Trump administration tell the employees at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to stay home and not work? They continue to get paid, but they don't do their jobs. That is what they have been ordered. Why?

The CFPB is a Bureau that helps protect American consumers against people who are engaged in fraud and con artists and cheats. They have gone after a lot of powerful people, a lot of powerful organizations. And they have returned over \$1 billion to the American people—dollars that hard-working Americans were cheated out of. They went and got them back for them.

Yet here comes Trump in the name of "efficiency," telling people to no longer do their work, even though they are being paid for it. And their work is to go after fraudsters and cheats.

I think we know what is going on here. What is going on here is we have Elon Musk trying to create a government that helps the already powerful and cuts services that benefit every American—like what happened to the Veterans' Administration, the Social Security Administration, and, yes, NIH when it comes to medical research, to help clear the way for tax cuts for very wealthy people. That is what is going on here.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Tomorrow, we are going to begin to consider a budget resolution that creates the framework for providing those tax cuts to the very wealthy at the expense of all Americans. I serve on the Senate Budget Committee, and last week, we had a preview of all of this. We considered the budget resolution.

Those of us on the committee had an opportunity to propose amendments that would at least put up guardrails to protect the American people from deep cuts to services that are important to them to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. And so I offered a number of those amendments. And we will have a chance on this full Senate floor to consider these amendments in the coming days.

One amendment I offered is very straightforward. It says:

It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, [or] amendment between the Houses . . . that cuts funding to Medicare or Medicaid benefits.

So if there is abuse going on in the Medicare or Medicaid Programs, absolutely go for it. But that is not what we are talking about here.

We said: Don't cut benefits to the American people. We had a vote on this in the Senate Budget Committee, and it was party line. Every Democratic Senator voted to protect Medicare and Medicaid. Every Republican Senator voted against it. I am sure we are going to have a chance to vote on this again on the Senate floor.

I would point out, I think it was this morning or last night, President Trump said that Medicaid would not be cut. He said Medicare would not be cut. I hope since the time my Republican colleagues voted against this in the committee and the vote we will have in the next couple of days, we will have a unanimous consent vote on this bill to protect Medicare and Medicaid because President Trump just said he has absolutely no intention of doing that. Let's see what happens.

I also offered an amendment in the Budget Committee to make sure that Medicare continued to have the authority to negotiate lower drug prices for people on Medicare. We had a fight for decades to allow the Medicare Program to negotiate lower drug prices for the American people. The pharmaceutical companies have fought it tooth and nail, but we got it done a few years ago.

As a result of what we did, this year, Americans on Medicare, seniors on Medicare, will have no more than \$2,000 of out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs because we finally gave Medicare the authority to negotiate drug prices, just like insurance companies have that power. Medicare is a big insurance entity in one way. Yet they were prohibited by law from negotiating lower drug prices for the Medicare Program and the American people.

But we changed that. We gave them the authority to negotiate those lower

drug prices. And guess what. It saved the Medicare Program money and it saved American seniors money because they now have lower drug prices on a couple of classes of drugs and they are continuing to move forward on that.

I had an amendment in the Budget Committee simply to say it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any proposal that undermines and undoes and destroys the power of Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices.

Again, the vote was all Democrats in the Senate Budget Committee voting yes to protect the ability of Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices. Every Republican Senator voted no.

I had a couple of other amendments as well. Another one was an amendment to prohibit cutting. Again, these are cuts that a lot of us don't want to make because they are important to many working families, and we certainly don't want to make these cuts to clear the way for tax cuts for the very wealthy.

So I also proposed an amendment that it not be in order to consider any legislative vehicle that would cut funding from the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. These are very important programs to make sure that every child in the classroom has the nutrition they need in order to succeed.

It is pretty basic: Let's make sure every kid in the school has the nutritious meal they need simply to sustain themselves and be able to, therefore, pay attention to what the teacher is saying rather than pay attention to an empty stomach.

So I thought, surely, our colleagues would agree that we shouldn't cut that program to make way for tax cuts for the very wealthy, but, unfortunately, the result on the vote was the same. Every Democratic Senator voted to prohibit these cuts, and every Republican Senator voted to green-light these cuts going forward.

I know our colleagues will have a chance to vote on this on the Senate floor in a couple of days because Senator HIRONO and I will be offering that amendment.

Just to close and summarize, it was 30 days ago that just down this hall, President Trump was sworn in. He said he was going to usher in a great golden age for America. Of course, sitting right behind him were the people he was talking about providing a golden age for—Elon Musk, already the richest man in the world, and other billionaire tech titans. And what we have seen in the 30 days since is that great betrayal.

President Trump is not focused on reducing prices or costs for the American people. No, he is focused on implementing the plan that he disavowed on the campaign trail—Project 2025. That is what he is focused on, the plan he knew would be very unpopular. And what that plan does is call for very deep cuts and slashing very important services that matter to the American

people, including Medicaid, in order to make room for tax cuts for the very wealthy.

So this is what the Elon Musk operation is all about, and it is all about the great betrayal. People around the country from all parties are waking up to this—not just Democrats, Republicans, Independents, people who voted against Donald Trump, and also those who voted for him thinking that he was going to deliver on those promises to cut costs—only to wake up and realize for the last 30 days that something very different is happening in America; that he is slashing and illegally slashing all of these important investments for the American people in order to take care of those people who were sitting right behind him on Inauguration Day—Elon Musk and the billionaires.

That is a betrayal.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was nearly 3 years ago that the world watched in horror as Russia pursued a bloody, full-scale invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine.

I was in Vilnius, Lithuania, with my colleague Senator Chris Coons on that cold, dark morning in the airport when we heard reports first trickle out that the war was, again, starting in Europe.

Three years ago, the Russian invasion of Ukraine was not a partisan issue in the United States. Congressmen, Senators on both sides of the aisle agreed on the basic facts: Russia was waging an unprovoked, illegal war and must be stopped at all costs. And for the past 3 years, we have supported Ukraine with the funding it needed to beat back Russian aggression and defend the frontline of democracy in Europe. And the Ukrainian people have done just that. Forty-six thousand Ukrainian lives have been lost—46,000 defending their Nation against Putin.

We have joined with our NATO allies and many other countries around the world standing by Ukraine, and they have shown an extraordinary courage, a courage for the history books. But it turns out that the new President of the United States, Donald Trump, does not see this the same way as I do and as we have for 3 years.

The fact of the matter is that President Donald Trump is a pushover for Russian President Vladimir Putin. He has always been, and he will always be. Since Trump took office, he has played right into Putin's hands. The outrageous comments he posted today on Truth Social make that painfully clear. In the post, Trump attacked not Putin for the invasion but the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy—blaming him for Russia's invasion which, as I said, has killed more than 46,000 Ukrainians and displaced millions more.

It is disgusting to say that President Trump called Zelenskyy, the President