

of this deal? And which country brought it up first—us or them? What is Qatar being offered in return?

Considering past security disasters, such as the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, what are the security risks of this arrangement?

And, finally, how is this gift not naked corruption?

The Attorney General must testify before both the House and Senate to explain why gifting Donald Trump a private jet does not violate the emoluments clause, which requires congressional approval, or any other ethics law.

So until the Attorney General explains her blatantly inept decision and we get complete and comprehensive answers to these and other questions, I will place a hold on all political nominees to the Department of Justice.

As disturbing as this latest news about the Qatari Air Force One is, it is frankly just the tip of the iceberg.

For months, Qatari and other Gulf State nationals have spent billions on deals with the Trump organizations, seemingly to buy access to the President, including \$2 billion from the UAE venture capital firm for Donald Trump's new stablecoin, including the launch of a new Trump hotel in Dubai worth over a billion dollars and the construction of a beachside golf course in Qatar, potentially worth \$5 billion.

Donald Trump's business deals in the Middle East reek of crooked self-enrichment. He isn't just blurring the line between public service and personal profit, he is erasing it. This isn't speculation; it is fact backed by overwhelming evidence. He is jeopardizing America's national security to line his own pockets.

What is most chilling about this brazen bribe and the national security betrayal is how openly Donald Trump is doing it, how he is lying about the need for this aircraft and the risks involved and how he is daring Republicans to call him out.

And how are Republicans responding? With silence. With their heads in the sand. Total obeisance. Afraid to tell the "emperor" he has no clothes.

Well, Republicans may be too scared to stand up to Donald Trump, but I will keep pushing and Senate Democrats will keep pushing to get more answers to this nakedly crooked arrangement with Qatar. Until the American people learn the truth about this deal, I will do my part to block the galling and truly breathtaking politicization at the Department of Justice.

TARIFFS

Madam President, now on tariffs, Donald Trump promised in dealing with China he would not back off without getting concessions in return. And then yesterday Donald Trump did, in fact, cave to China without getting much in the way of any concessions. Sadly, it seems like China has, once again, gotten the better of Donald Trump, and that is bad news for American workers, American consumers, American manufacturing.

I have long been clear that going after China is a good thing; going after the Chinese Government when they are unfair on trade is a good thing. I have been clear that tariffs, when used carefully and as part of a larger strategy, can help bring nations like those run by the Chinese Communist Party to heel.

But that is not what happened under Donald Trump. Instead Donald Trump announced "Liberation Day"—pushing us to the brink of recession, sent markets flailing, sent consumers and small businesses into a panic, all so he could cave to China without having anything to show for the heartache and economic detritus.

This has all been another example of Donald Trump's chaos. Chaos. That is a watchword, unfortunately, for the way this administration acts. He has one policy for his tariffs one day, a different policy the next day. One day he is pretending to play a tough guy with China. The next, he is caving to China and getting little, if anything, in return. Who knows what Trump's tariff policy will be in the next 90 days. No business can count on what he might say or do, and any promise that he will stick to his word, stick to his policies, well, the past is prologue; that never happens.

Donald Trump's announcement with China is cold comfort for consumers and small businesses alike for one reason: We don't know what he will do next.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on reconciliation and particularly on SNAP, a program that feeds hungry children, today, the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Agriculture will begin marking up the main portions of Republicans' so-called "big, beautiful bill."

Reports suggest that Republicans may even name their legislation "One Beautiful Bill." That is ridiculous. I suggest Republicans pick a different name, a more honest name. They should call their bill "The Big GRIFT" because that is what their bill is: Greedy Republicans in Favor of Tycoons. "The Big GRIFT: Billionaires win, American families lose."

There is nothing—nothing—"beautiful" about the biggest cuts to Medicaid in American history. There is nothing "beautiful" about cutting SNAP, the largest anti-hunger program in America, by over \$300 billion.

There is nothing "beautiful" about forcing kids to go hungry just to feed corporate greed. But that is what Republicans want to do. They want to ax SNAP benefits by \$310 billion to pay for tax breaks for the ultrarich. Cutting food from the mouth of hungry children for tax breaks for the ultrarich, that is what they call beautiful? I call it warped.

They want to shift the burden to the States, knowing full well many States won't be able to make up the gap in funding. That means in States across

America and in Puerto Rico, kids, seniors, veterans, and families will go hungry. USDA cuts have already decimated food banks.

I was just in Albany yesterday where the local food bank had 27 tractor-trailers, 1 million pounds of food, 1 million pounds of good, nutritious food for children and others—veterans, elderly—who need the food, all canceled because of Donald Trump's cuts.

Much of that food was produced by local family farms that lost a valuable market, and this is happening across the country. And now Republicans want to add to the devastation by cutting SNAP. That is an even further cut than they have already done, a deeper cut. Republicans call their SNAP cuts "savings" and "reducing waste," but those are euphemisms. What it really means is increasing hunger, increasing poverty, increasing the wealth of the ultrarich. It is morally indefensible. Indefensible.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Wyoming.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, this week, Senator KAINE of Virginia and Senator VAN HOLLEN of Maryland are going to force a vote on a resolution here in the Senate, and, astonishingly, it is in defense of illegal immigrant criminals.

They are going to take up the Senate's time, the time of the American people, because they want to defend illegal immigrant criminals. It is called the Kaine-Van Hollen resolution, pure political theater. It is not about human rights. It is not about protecting Americans, in my opinion, from violent crime, and that is why I am opposing what they are proposing here today.

What they are proposing is to shield illegal immigrant criminals—shield them from deportation and shield them as they try to evade arrest.

Democrats want to defend illegal immigrant criminals, and apparently they want to continue to do that. Let's talk about illegal immigrant criminals, and let's talk about the one that they are running to check on in El Salvador: Kilmar Abrego Garcia.

That is what one of them did, went to go check on him. The media likes to call him a "Maryland man." Senator VAN HOLLEN said he doesn't "vouch" for Garcia. Yet he is one of many Democrats now who have gone to El Salvador.

Let's talk about Garcia's record. That is what the American people have been hearing about as well. For starters, Garcia is an illegal immigrant with a deportation order. He has been

ordered by the courts to be deported from the United States. His own lawyer has conceded, in immigration court, that he entered the country illegally back in 2011, and he is fully subject to deportation, and a deportation order has been given.

Moreover, in 2019, an immigration judge again—a judge—determined Garcia was a “verified member” of MS-13. A “verified member” of MS-13. Well, then they appealed. Well, the determination was upheld on appeal. Yes, he is a “verified member” of MS-13. Oh, he is also suspected of human trafficking because in 2022, he was caught driving eight passengers from Texas to Maryland. He was stopped in Tennessee. He was driving eight passengers, Texas to Maryland, in a car registered to a human smuggler. Astonishing. That is what the Democrats are defending.

He was driving on a suspended license, no proof of insurance, all in violation of the law. None of these eight passengers being moved—transported—from Texas to Maryland had any luggage. Tennessee law enforcement recently released the body camera footage of the stop. It is real.

But what else do we know? Well, his wife, Garcia’s wife, sought two protective orders—two protective orders—against him for threatening to kill her. That is whom the Democrats are here defending today—not that one individual but that whole style of behavior that has now impacted every community in America as 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into our country during the Biden administration.

What has President Trump done? He has taken this dangerous thug off the streets. But now Democrats are fighting to bring illegal immigrant criminals, in his case and others, back into the country. How many people want him as a next-door neighbor? Is that good news? Is that what the Democrats want, hey, bring him back, bring him into our community?

President Trump and Republicans in this body are protecting our communities. We are supporting and actually deporting illegal immigrant criminals. Democrats’ policies would allow each and every one of those criminals to roam free in our communities.

Americans were forced to live with Democrats’ failed approach at the border for the last 4 years. Ten million illegal immigrants flooded into the country, entered with ease. Open border policies—what do we know about our home State of Wyoming?—drove up crime, drove up fentanyl deaths. So many illegal immigrants, they strained our schools, our hospitals, our communities. And Democrats are now attempting to weaken the strong and successful border security policies that this current administration is actually enforcing, which the Democrats ignored.

Illegal crossings are down 93 percent from last year. In April, only five illegal immigrants were released into the

country. Compare that to April 1 year ago when Joe Biden was in charge. He was the President. The Democrats were the majority.

Mr. President, 68,000 illegal immigrants were released into America in a single month under Joe Biden. That was the month of April last year.

Look, we are putting in place strong border security. Republicans are leading the way. We ended this catch-and-release program. We restored “Remain in Mexico.” We are the party of secure borders and safe communities. The Democrats are the party of open borders and crime running rampant.

So the response of the obstructionist Democrat is to push a political stunt, and that is what they are doing here today. This Kaine-Van Hollen resolution, it wastes the Senate’s time, it delays our important work on behalf of the American people.

I have not heard one Democrat, and I hope some come to the floor and explain how allowing MS-13 gang members to roam free in our communities and in our neighborhoods, how that makes America safer or stronger.

What is the Democrat plan to protect Americans like Laken Riley and Rachel Morin and other victims of their failed policies?

They have none. They have none.

Republicans know how to keep America safe: Secure the border. Fund law enforcement. Deport illegal immigrant criminals. That is the way to keep our country safe and strong.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MIDDLE EAST

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, usually, public corruption happens in secret. The politicians that do it know it is wrong to accept money in exchange for favorable government treatment, and so they hide it until they are found out.

A textbook example would be Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards, who in the 1990s was quietly taking bribes from businessmen who wanted to get licenses for riverboat casinos.

In the late 1990s, Edwards was convicted of the crimes of extortion, racketeering, and money laundering. The way in which he was doing it was like out of a movie. In one instance, a businessman handed the Governor a suitcase full of \$100 bills, totaling \$400,000—all in order to get a 6-to-0 commission ruling in favor of his casino. Eventually, as with most all corrupt officials who are taking money privately, Edwards was discovered, he was disgraced, and he went to jail.

As we speak, our President Donald Trump is going to the Middle East on a

public corruption tour. He is no less corrupt than Edwin Edwards of Louisiana. In fact, he is way more corrupt. Edwin Edwards took \$400,000. Well, in the Middle East, Donald Trump will cement deals totaling in the billions in exchange for favorable treatment by the U.S. Federal Government for these Gulf countries.

The key difference is that Donald Trump isn’t hiding it like other corrupt officials are. He is not ashamed. He is not doing it in secret. His corruption is wildly public, and his hope is that by doing it publicly, he can con the American people into thinking that it is not corruption because he is not hiding it. But what he is doing, in reality, is no different than any other corrupt public official who does it in private other than the fact that Trump’s corruption, his foreign policy corruption, is just so much bigger in scope and the impact it has on the American people than anything a corrupt mayor or a corrupt Governor may have done.

Trump’s first major foreign trip—and he just landed—is to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE—not because these are our most important allies in the world, not because these are the most important countries in the world, not because he is going there to talk about making the Middle East more safe and more secure—no. His first trip is to these three countries because these are the three countries that have agreed to pay Donald Trump money. Donald Trump is going to collect tribute, and it is all just out in the open.

Frankly, it was pretty easy to see this coming.

Recent former Presidents, Republicans and Democrats, have always very seriously and studiously avoided even the appearance of a conflict of interest. President Bush placed his assets into a qualified blind trust where investment decisions were made without his knowledge or input. Both Biden and Obama divested all of their assets except for cash and mutual funds. They didn’t enter into any new business ventures while in the White House.

In contrast, Trump has refused to abide by these standard ethics rules. His family runs his business, but nobody honestly believes that the kids are really in charge. President Trump is still calling the shots. His interests are not in a blind trust. He has made no pledge that he won’t do new deals, even with foreign entities, while he is in office. In fact, he is doing deals seemingly every single week. He is open for business, and every foreign government knows it. In fact, it appears that right now, the Gulf States are trying to outdo each other to up the price of buying an American President. And because Trump is greedy and he is insecure, he wants to fit in with the billionaire class, he is traveling the region with his hat out for further solicitations.

So let’s ask: What is the going rate right now for a Gulf country to buy access to Donald Trump, to get favorable