

votes for everything. For goodness' sake, Clarence Thomas—Clarence Thomas—was confirmed to be a U.S. Supreme Court Justice with 52 votes. That was a different era.

But I will also point to another era. We have not seen an effort like this by the minority party to be obstructionists in 50 years. Not since the Ford administration has it taken this kind of effort for every single nominee. That is brokenness, underlain by the brokenness of their party.

I will use a bit of a baseball analogy here. They are swinging at every pitch, every single pitch, and they look ridiculous.

This week, it is this. Next week, somebody will be down in El Salvador at an MS-13 prison—a prison down there—dining with an MS-13 gang member who beats his wife. This is who they are.

They are also the people now standing up objecting to the confirmation of the Ambassador to the Vatican. Yes, you heard that right—the Ambassador of the Vatican, who could be there for the installation of the Pope.

So I don't want to hear anything about how anybody is being reasonable. This is totally unreasonable. By the way, my friend from Hawaii is defending USAID. Let's talk about that. Let's talk about some of the reforms real quickly, a bit of a breakdown.

Heaven forbid we stop \$20 million on a "Sesame Street" show in Baghdad promoting LGBTQ ideals; \$11 million to instruct Vietnam to stop trash burning; \$56 million to boost Egyptian and Tunisian tourism; \$100 million to build schools in Jordan; \$11 million to instruct Vietnam to stop burning trash—I already mentioned that—DEI programs in Burma, and money for Guatemalan sex changes.

Maybe, just maybe, this isn't the hill to die on. But maybe, just maybe, defending people who are deported, who are MS-13 gang members who are terrorizing our communities, that is not the hill to die on. But next week, it will be something else.

But the truth is, this is really about Trump derangement syndrome. The truth is, this is about the Democrats not coming to grips about, you know, getting smoked in November because they don't have a message. So what are they grasping at? All of these ridiculous things so somebody can say they are the chief resister.

I just never thought I would see a day that the resistance would mean holding up the Ambassador to the Holy See to be there for the installation of the Pope, but here is where we are; total brokenness from the other side.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I am just a little bit taken aback by the personal—the tone here. But I do enjoy working with the Senator on the Commerce Committee, so I am not going to respond in kind, except to say some-

thing very simple, which is: It is Tuesday. If we file a cloture petition—which is not my authority—tonight, there will be one intervening day, and then we vote on Thursday.

So if this is important to the majority leader, all he has to do is file a cloture petition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I would just like to respond by saying it is not personal. The Senator from Hawaii, who is my friend, is—by defending USAID—is defending these positions. That is the only remark I made.

But also acting like—and we did have a conversation on the floor about what it would take—acting like there would be some kind of accommodation that would allow this to move forward in what would normally be a normal process here, but where we are at is the Democrats are objecting to everything. That has not happened in 50 years. That is not normal.

So the accommodation for this instance, I think, is reasonable. Evidently, he doesn't. It is not personal, and here we are. But the idea that the Democratic Party is grasping at straws every single day to make headlines and make themselves look ridiculous isn't personal necessarily, but it is the truth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 218

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, on another matter, it really should go without saying, but no President should be accepting a \$400 million gift from a foreign country. It is gross; it is reckless; it is corrupt; and the outrage and condemnation, especially on the Republican side, should be universal.

There is no excuse or justification for this. It is wrong. That is the end of the story. There is no legal justification. There is no commonsense justification.

Let's unpack this a little bit. Trump is planning to accept a \$400 million luxury plane from Qatar, which he just so happens to be visiting this week on his first foreign trip of his term.

The stated purpose of that trip is to cut business deals, but it is very hard to drive a hard bargain when the people that you are negotiating with just gave you a \$400 million gift. And it means that the other side will have a much easier time getting what it wants, even if American interests are harmed.

A law enforcement official called the gift a "security nightmare" because it would require basically the whole thing to be busted up, taken apart, and reconstituted. If that all sounds blatantly corrupt and incredibly wasteful, it is because it is.

I just want everyone to go through the thought experiment. Imagine if it were a President of the other party, imagine if this happened 25 years ago and you were reading about something in history, do you think that an American President should accept a \$400 million gift?

Do you think that Air Force One—this icon, this symbol of American power abroad that has carried John F. Kennedy's body; where LBJ was sworn in; where George W. Bush was whisked away when the Twin Towers fell; where multiple Presidents of both parties and multiple generations have done extraordinary work around the world making sure that we are the indispensable Nation; that we are the leader of the free world—now sponsored by Qatar.

I remain flabbergasted that this thing is not going to pass. I remain completely aghast. This is the most blatant, obvious, ridiculous, gross corruption that I have ever seen in my entire life by dollar amount, by symbolism, by violating constitutional and statutory law, and also just violating like—I am not a lawyer. You don't have to be all fancy pants to understand how ridiculous it is that a foreign government is going to say: Hey, we will take care of Air Force One for you.

And so we have a simple resolution—and it is simple. I was going to read it, but you know what, I will just summarize it. It basically says—and the way these things are structured, it is bunch of whereases: Whereas Air Force One is a symbol of the United States; Whereas Air Force One is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Office of the Presidency; and so on and so forth; therefore, be it resolved that we shouldn't do this, that the American President should not accept a \$400 million gift from anybody.

And so, as if in legislative session, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 218, submitted earlier today; that there be up to 2 hours for debate on the resolution and that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the adoption of the resolution; finally, that if the resolution is adopted, the preamble be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as usual, my Democratic colleagues are losing their minds over this situation, but let's just talk about the facts.

First of all, this is not a done deal. It has not happened yet. It is all talk. But if reports are accurate, the Government of Qatar is considering gifting the United States Department of Defense an American-made Boeing 747—I will repeat that—an American-made Boeing 747 plane for temporary use as Air Force One.

It is not for the President's personal use, and he will not be using it after he leaves office.

It is customary and totally normal for foreign countries to give our government gifts. The DOJ has already

said that this does not violate any law. So why are my colleagues and the woke media having a full-blown meltdown over this situation?

Perhaps it is because in the past 72 hours, President Trump has delivered so many wins, you can't count them all.

On Sunday, he negotiated a deal with China, dropping tariffs 50 percent.

On Monday, he secured the release of the last remaining hostage in Hamas. Edan Alexander has been through hell the past 584 days, and it took President Trump to bring him home.

Today, President Trump just announced hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment from the Middle East and on Thursday is forcing a face-to-face meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy to end this brutal war in Ukraine.

You would think the media would be celebrating all these wins, along with my colleagues, but as usual, the Trump derangement syndrome is getting in the way.

I am convinced that the media and some of my colleagues would rather President Trump lose on everything and our country lose on everything than be successful.

Whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, we are all Americans. Sometimes, I think we all forget that. And we should all be able to celebrate anytime a President delivers a win for the American taxpayers.

And by the way, we are \$37 trillion in debt. If another country wants to give us a free plane to save the taxpayers of this country \$400 million, the only thing we should say is thank you. Democrats are rudderless right now. They are looking for something to hang their hat on. They see that President Trump has done more in 4 months than President Biden did in 4 years.

So they want to make a plane gift from Qatar the next so-called perfect phone call. To my Democrat colleagues: Instead of wasting our time objecting every time President Trump breathes, maybe you should go get outside of DC and go connect with the American people.

I can promise you, they don't give a rip about an airplane. They care about their lives and this economy and the things that have been destroyed for the past 4 years that President Trump is trying to put back together.

For these reasons, Mr. President, I object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 219

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, a lot of Americans are watching this spectacle: a \$400 million gift from Qatar, which President Trump has called a "palace in the sky."

It would be for his personal use now and then afterward when he is a private citizen. And they are wondering, Isn't there a law that prevents it? Isn't there some statute that stops this cor-

ruption—a gift to the President from a foreign power that makes him beholden for his personal benefit and use?

And the answer to the American people is, yes, there is a law. In fact, it is in the Constitution. It is a specific clause. It is called the foreign emoluments clause. It states:

[N]o person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

And the reason for this clause, which was written by the Founders centuries ago, is so powerfully shown today. At the beginning of our Nation, we were a small country, potentially influenced by big foreign powers—England, France.

The Founders were concerned that our Presidents or other officials could be bought, could be influenced, could be pressured by those foreign powers. So they specifically wrote into the statutes a measure that protected our small Nation then.

It applies equally now. In fact, now, it is even more a protection of our national security. This plane is emblematic of a core, metastasizing corruption, an economic cancer that has infected the White House, but it is also emblematic of a national security threat from nations who would buy our President—maybe not signed, sealed, and delivered but exert undue influence.

In fact, the national security threat is even greater from this plane, which would have to be taken apart—a huge expense to American taxpayers—literally taken apart down to its shell.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I can tell you that there are foreign powers all over the world who would like nothing better than a Qatar plane to be carrying the President of the United States—potentially bugged, infiltrated by systems that could be hacked by them, not just by Qatar or other Mideast nations.

It is a threat to our national security to have the President of the United States riding in this plane unless it is, in effect, taken apart and put back together with the systems and the safeguards that are included on Air Force One.

This blatantly corrupt act shows that the President is just in it for himself. In fact, that kind of equipping of the plane will take billions of dollars of taxpayer money and years of work to bring this aircraft up to the requirements—the minimal requirements—of Air Force One, ready in time for the President to use it after he leaves office. And President Trump won't even pay the transfer fees.

The reports that the U.S. Air Force will pay all of the costs related to retrofitting and transferring this plane to the United States, even to the Presidential library, show the blatant corruption here. Accepting the plane is bad enough, but foisting on taxpayers

the expense of retrofitting it and updating it and then transferring it to his foundation is an insult to every American.

And my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to say it is only Democrats who are objecting, but, in fact, MAGA media personalities strongly agree. One described the planned gift of this plane as a "bribe"—pretty right on. Another called it "indefensible"—also right.

Even Laura Loomer opposes this gift. She described this incident as a "stain" on the Trump administration. I never thought I would say that she is right, too, but it is a stain not on the Trump administration alone. It is a stain on America. It is a stain on our national honor. It is a stain on the integrity of the greatest country in the history of the world.

Foreign governments have figured out how to get to Donald Trump. It is through his wallet, his vanity, and his bank account.

It is not just this "palace in the sky." The Qatari Government has signed a \$5.5 billion deal with the Trump Organization to build a luxury golf resort in Qatar, complete with Trump-branded beach side villas and an 18-hole golf course.

And it is not just Qatar. President Trump has also pursued new business deals with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and others, including Serbia.

On May 1, Trump's cryptocurrency firm announced that an investment fund backed by the United Arab Emirates would be using President Trump's digital coins to complete a \$2 billion transaction. Through this deal, President Trump and his family stand to gain hundreds of millions of dollars from a foreign state, and their "cryptocurrency empire," if I can use that term loosely, which includes World Liberty Financial, as well as their meme coin, \$TRUMP, is making hundreds of millions of dollars—literally, hundreds of millions of dollars, for example, through the transfer fee involved in FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT. That is the reason that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Minority Staff, which I head, has written asking for more facts from FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT and World Liberty Financial.

But this crypto corruption is, again, just one more of the ongoing corrupt con games that President Trump has helmed. LIV Golf, backed by the Saudi Government, will host a tournament at Trump National Doral resort later this year, and the Trump Organization has announced new real estate developments on government-owned land in Serbia and elsewhere.

Now, there is a kind of fundamental principle here, and it goes back to the Founders. The American President is supposed to work for the American people, not for his own enrichment. In foreign policy and on the international stage, he is supposed to represent the United States of America, not his own