

20 years of service, Minnesota Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman, and her husband Mark. She and her husband leave behind two children.

These killings are not only horrifying for Minnesota but a tragedy for America. This heinous act of political violence defies American values and democracy.

Unfortunately, we have seen a disturbing increase in political violence in recent years, seemingly, as part of a misguided and sickening attempt to strike fear and intimidation in the hearts of the American people and those who engage in public service.

Violence and hate have no place in America. Leaders on both sides of the aisle must speak out and condemn these violent acts. I have said this repeatedly, but it bears repeating: Political violence from the right or the left is never—never—acceptable. It is never the answer.

We must condemn these violent acts when they happen. We also must speak out against the radical language we see online and even language coming from our colleagues.

One Member of this body tweeted a picture of the Minnesota shooter and wrote:

This is what happens when Marxists don't get their way.

He tweeted another picture of the shooter and wrote:

Nightmare on Waltz Street.

Apparently, it was an attempt to blame Minnesota Governor Tim Walz for the shooting.

Another one of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle tweeted about the shooting:

The degree to which the extreme left has become radical, violent, and intolerant is stunning and terrifying.

To attempt to politicize this tragedy is absolutely unacceptable. This rhetoric from elected officials is beyond dangerous and incites even more violence. It is reprehensible, and it must be called out on both sides of the aisle—both sides of the aisle—because in the land of the free and the home of the brave, everyone should feel safe expressing their political views, and we must never do so in a way that condones violence or intimidation.

I pray for Minnesota during this heartbreaking time and vow to continue to denounce and combat political violence of any kind.

GENIUS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. On another topic, over the weekend, President Trump hosted a military parade to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army and, coincidentally, his 79th birthday.

Spending up to \$45 million of taxpayers' money on this kind of pomp and circumstance, while at the same time proposing a budget to eviscerate medical research for the military and to take health insurance away from 16 million Americans is not a cause for national celebration.

Meanwhile, the President's crypto business unfolds. Throughout his first term, President Trump was officially skeptical of crypto currency. In a social media post from July 11, 2019, the President said:

I am not a fan of Bitcoin and other Cryptocurrencies, which are not money, and whose value is highly volatile and based on thin air. Unregulated Crypto Assets can facilitate unlawful behavior, including drug trade and other illegal activity.

That is a quote from the President in his first term. Once the President figured out how to personally make this part of his investment portfolio, his tune changed.

This is how President Trump is using the unregulated crypto industry to enrich himself and his family. Three days before he took office, President Trump launched his meme coin, a novelty item similar to baseball cards or Beanie Babies. Yet they hold no intrinsic value.

Meme coins are risky and highly volatile. Despite the risk, many investors purchased President Trump's meme coin, and in the first few weeks after its launch, the President, in his second term, profited up to \$100 million in trading fees, while more than 200,000 investors lost money. There has never been a precedent for anything like this in the history of the Presidency.

Then President Trump auctioned off access to himself by hosting a "crypto gala" dinner here in Washington. The President made a whopping \$148 million just off this dinner, from 220 investors willing to pay for face time with the President. But nearly half of the "winners" of this meme coin competition were still "losers." About 95 attendees suffered a net \$8.95 million loss by purchasing President Trump's meme coin. In total, 764,000 investors lost money to President Trump's meme coin scam.

But his corruption does not stop there. His family started its own crypto firm now, World Liberty Financial, and, in March, they launched their own stablecoin, right as the Senate was working on the GENIUS Act, legislation to regulate—so-called regulate—the stablecoin market.

Conveniently, this legislation allows the President and his family to continue owning and issuing stablecoins. There has never been anything like this in the history of the Presidency. Passing the GENIUS Act will help the stablecoin market grow tenfold, over the next 3 years, to a \$2 trillion market.

I am going to vote no on this legislation when it comes up this week. We prohibit Members of Congress from activity in crypto currency. The same should be true for the Presidency. Why are we having two different standards? I think the answer is obvious.

That means, if the Senate passes this legislation tomorrow, it would give Congress's blessing for President Trump and his family to further enrich themselves, with very little protection for consumers.

President Trump's crypto dealings, reportedly, account for nearly 40 percent of his net worth. All of the years and decades of investment notwithstanding, 40 percent of President Trump's net worth has been generated in just a few months in the second term of his Presidency with this cryptocurrency. In just a few months, the family—the Trump family—has pulled in approximately \$1 billion from crypto—\$1 billion.

Tomorrow's vote on the GENIUS Act could bring us closer to enabling President Trump's latest scam. This is shameful; it is corrupt—especially since we could have stopped this from happening if we had conducted an open amendment process, as Leader THUNE promised. We could have had amendments on the floor that would have brought real regulation to this industry. Instead, we have phony regulation.

I filed an amendment to crack down on ATM operators who are scamming seniors out of their life savings with crypto machines. My amendment would have created guardrails to prevent crypto ATM fraud. Approximately 13 States have done so, and we should do so on a national basis.

But we won't have that opportunity. They have foreclosed all amendments to this bill. We can't even debate it on the floor and ask for a vote.

Instead, the GENIUS Act will allow the crypto scam to continue at the expense of unsuspecting Americans and to the enrichment of the President and his family.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

MINNESOTA LAWMAKERS SHOOTINGS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, law enforcement apprehended the man suspected in the assassination of Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband and the shootings of State Senator John Hoffman and his wife.

We in the Senate thank our law enforcement for their remarkable work in bringing the attacker into custody. As we have all seen, the attacker planned to continue his killing spree had he not been thwarted and had a list of over 70 public officials potentially targeted for violence, including Members of the Senate. Naturally, a number of Members in the Senate remain profoundly shaken. The victims were friends of our colleagues from Minnesota. Some of them were together at a dinner the night before the shooting. To think that one moment, you can celebrate each other's company—laugh and joke, share a meal, a drink—only for violence to strike the next moment makes us all sick to our stomachs. It is haunting.

My prayers are with the families of the victims. I am heartbroken for the loss of Representative Hortman and her husband. I can't get their faces—those nice pictures of such nice people—out of my mind.

On the other hand, I am glad to hear Senator Hoffman and his wife are making progress toward recovery. May God bless them all and their loved ones.

SENATE SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, as we convene, I want to start with this: My highest priority right now is working with the Senate leadership on both sides, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and Capitol Police to ensure everyone's safety. This weekend, I asked Capitol Police and the Sergeant at Arms to increase the security for Members, including Senator PADILLA and the Minnesota Senators. Knowing that the Sergeant at Arms, her entire operation, and the Capitol Police are there to help us right now is comforting.

Tomorrow, the Senate will hold an all-Members' briefing, organized at my request and that of Senator THUNE, with the Sergeant at Arms, to talk about security for Members. The Sergeant at Arms and Capitol Police are doing an outstanding job and have bent over backwards, under very difficult circumstances, to keep everyone safe. Tomorrow's briefing will be a chance for them to convey what they are doing for Members to keep them safe.

NATIONAL PROTESTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, second, I would like to take a moment and step back and share a quick word on the events of this weekend—the good and the bad alike.

On one hand, this weekend we witnessed one of the largest peaceful demonstrations in American history. Nearly 5 million Americans took to the streets and made their voices heard against the rise of authoritarianism on our shores. I was proud to be one of them. We gathered in the streets. We gathered in front of State capitols. We gathered on beaches and at national parks and in cities and towns, big and small alike. For the most part, the demonstrations were peaceful. In some cities, there were acts of unlawful disruption, and those who broke the law should be held accountable. I have always been clear that the right to free speech is fundamental but must be exercised peacefully.

But, again, for the most part, the millions who marched this weekend did so peacefully. In many cities, there wasn't a single incidence of lawbreaking. In fact, the demonstrations were much more than just simply peaceful; they were inspiring. After all the attacks we have seen this year against our institutions and our values, it is so comforting to know that the roots of democracy run deep in this country; and even though we may dis-

agree fiercely, the marches remind us we can stand up for our country and our democracy while still keeping the peace.

What happened in Minnesota, however, should be a warning. Political violence is not just on the rise in America; it is becoming all too normal, and it falls on all of us to stop it. When lawmakers are shot in their own homes, when a Governor's mansion is set ablaze, when the spouse of a Speaker of the House is nearly beaten to death, when a violent mob storms the U.S. Capitol, and when a gunman tries to assassinate the President of the United States, it is not enough to just condemn these acts and move on. We need to recognize something needs to change. Condemning violence is only the first step—necessary—but a first step. We must all work together to address violence's root causes. We must take a serious look at the toxic forces that are radicalizing too many Americans into embracing violence.

Most of all, when violence strikes, the answer is for us to come together regardless of party. That is especially important for U.S. Senators. Sadly, we didn't see that this weekend. I wish I didn't have to say this, but I was deeply disappointed and sickened to see a Member of this Chamber use the tragedy in Minnesota to take cheap, political shots at the other side on social media and risk escalating a perilous moment. What the senior Senator from Utah posted after the shootings was reckless and beneath the dignity of his office. For a Senator to fan the flames of division with falsities while the killer was still on the loose is deeply irresponsible. He should take down his post immediately and apologize to the families of the victims.

And this isn't even about politics. This is about simple human decency. Our divisions run deep, but we are still all Americans. We may disagree sometimes, many times, maybe most of the time, but we are still human beings. The victims this weekend—no matter what party they belonged to—still leave behind kids who now will never speak to their parents ever again.

So I say to my colleagues: Now is the time to speak with moral clarity. Every single one of us must condemn political violence no matter where it comes from and work together to eradicate its root causes.

We cannot be silent because silence only serves to enable more violence. And in the meantime, I will continue to work with Leader THUNE, with the Capitol Police, the Sergeant at Arms, and all of my colleagues to ensure the safety of every Senator and our staffs.

This is a dark moment for America, but I believe firmly in my bones we will endure.

ALEX PADILLA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on Senator PADILLA, what happened last week to Senator PADILLA was be-

yond the pale. I don't care who you are or what your views are, there is never justification for Federal agents to put their hands on a Member of the U.S. Senate, throw him onto the ground, and cuff him for no reason other than he was doing his job. The way agents treated Senator PADILLA is what you see in totalitarian regimes.

It is outrageous that Secretary Noem let this happen and then lied about the incident after the fact. Neither the Senate, nor any member of government, can tolerate a Member of this Chamber being treated in this way. Secretary Noem has proven herself to be derelict in her responsibilities.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 130.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Rodney Scott, of Oklahoma, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 130, Rodney Scott, of Oklahoma, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Bill Hagerty, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Roger F. Wicker, John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Bernie Moreno, Katie Boyd Britt, Mike Lee, Mike Rounds, Deb Fischer, Steve Daines, Rick Scott of Florida, James Lankford, Jon Husted, Ted Cruz.