

would say maybe instead of saying yes. So I hope that Secretary-to-be Duffy will respond to my inquiries about the FAA and Boeing aircraft.

I look forward to working with former Congressman Duffy to support long-term infrastructure policies to keep our manufacturing and our agriculture sectors robust and to support our State and local communities that depend on their jobs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 majority leader is recognized.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this past November, in an extraordinary and illegitimate move, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

The court's decision was troubling on multiple levels. First, the International Criminal Court, or ICC, has no jurisdiction over Israel or its citizens. Neither Israel nor the United States is a party to the treaty establishing the court, and thus the court has zero authority over Israel or its leaders.

Second, the court's clear suggestion of moral equivalence between the Government of Israel and the Hamas terrorists who attacked Israel and oppress their own people is beyond the pale. Israel wages war against terrorists; Hamas wages war against innocents.

The only reason Israel has been waging war against Hamas is because Hamas chose to launch a massive attack on innocent civilians that resulted in 1,200 deaths and the taking of approximately 250 hostages, more than 80 of whom are still in captivity today.

When it emerged last year that the ICC was planning to seek warrants for Israeli officials, a Republican-controlled House of Representatives brought up legislation to sanction those responsible at the ICC. Forty-two Democrats voted for it, but the legislation was dead on arrival in the U.S. Senate, with the Democrat leader refusing to bring it up for a vote.

When the ICC released its warrants last November, I promised that if Democrats would not bring ICC sanctions legislation to the floor for a vote, I would. Today, I am following through on that promise. The bill before us today will sanction foreign individuals who are involved in ICC efforts to investigate, arrest, or prosecute U.S. citizens or citizens of U.S. allies that are not party to the ICC.

The bill passed the House again earlier this month with the support of every Republican, plus more than 40

Democrats, and I hope we will see a strong bipartisan margin in the Senate as well—first, because this illegitimate targeting of a key U.S. ally should concern all of us, and second, because while the ICC is targeting Israeli leaders today, it could easily set its sights on Americans and American soldiers in particular tomorrow. It has happened before, back in 2020.

While the United States will not be turning over any of our military members to the ICC, the issuance of warrants for U.S. soldiers and military leaders could jeopardize American troops' ability to move freely where needed and impede our ability to defend our country and stand with our allies.

I want to thank Senator COTTON for all his work on this bill, as well as Senator RISCH.

I hope—I hope—my Democrat colleagues will join Republicans to swiftly get this legislation over the finish line and to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, criminals in the world today have an international friend. That friend is called the International Criminal Court. The ICC is headquartered in Europe. It claims unchecked power and power to enforce very loosely defined so-called international law, and they are unaccountable. The ICC is a kangaroo court.

The U.S. has never ratified this treaty, neither has Israel. We are not members with this group. This so-called court seems to me to just do the bidding of the country of Iran. It never issued arrest warrants for leaders of Iran. It never tried to prosecute Assad, the former dictator of Syria.

The ICC embraces a legal fiction and a moral fraud. It is the fraud and the fiction that Israel violates human rights and that sovereignty doesn't matter. They also believe that Israel doesn't have a right to defend themselves.

Last year, we saw the ICC issue an unjust and unlawful arrest warrant for the Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Israel's former defense minister was also targeted. The charges that the ICC brought were baseless; they were biased. And, basically, the ICC tends to continue to go after the Jewish State.

Many descriptions of President Netanyahu are absurd; they are inaccurate. Let's get to the facts. The facts are there was a brutal attack on October 7 of 2023 by Hamas. It was the deadliest single day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Israel has a funda-

mental right to defend itself, and America stands with the people of Israel. Israel went to extraordinary lengths to limit civilian casualties.

Hamas deliberately hid behind civilians. Hamas uses innocent individuals as human shields. Israel has allowed hundreds of thousands of tons of food and supplies to go in to help the people of Gaza. When the food doesn't meet the actual needs of the civilians there, it is not because they haven't sent enough, it is because Hamas steals it first. Israel isn't a member of the ICC. The court has no jurisdiction over it.

Israel is a democracy. Israel's judiciary is robust, and it is independent. The ICC is deaf to these important facts. It lives in an anti-Israel echo chamber.

Because of this prejudice against Israel, the ICC has also attacked Israel's allies. In 2020, the ICC started to investigate American servicemembers who served in Afghanistan for alleged war crimes. President Trump responded swiftly and strongly. He froze the assets of the ICC officials who were involved in the corrupt investigation. President Trump also imposed visa restrictions on ICC officials and on their families.

So then what happens? Then Joe Biden gets into the White House, and former President Biden—I love saying "former"—former President Biden wrongly and weakly overturned these effective sanctions. President Trump restored the sanctions on his first day back in office last week.

So today the Senate will hold a critical vote on a bipartisan bill to hold the International Criminal Court accountable. Senator JIM RISCH of Idaho and Senator TOM COTTON of Arkansas have been leaders on this issue here in the Senate. Under the bill we are going to be voting on today, any ICC official, employee, or associate who works to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute American citizens or our allies will face immediate sanctions.

This bill also blocks U.S. funding from the ICC—every penny. Critically, it ensures American taxpayers are not in any way contributing their hard-earned money to foreign institutions that attack our servicemembers.

Passing this bill sends a strong message—an important message—that we in America will not tolerate the ICC's lawfare against Israel. If the ICC attacks America or its allies, the consequences will be swift, will be serious, and will be severe. This is about much more than Israel.

The ICC also threatens America's safety, our security, and our sovereignty. Like Israel, America is not a member of the ICC. Well, Israel is the target today. The ICC could turn around and target American servicemembers, and even our leaders, in the future. The House of Representatives has passed legislation to sanction the ICC. They have done it several times. Its bipartisan support continues to grow and grows stronger in the most

recent passage. And a majority of Americans support congressional efforts to sanction the ICC. The most recent vote in the House was 243 in favor and only 140 against; 45 House Democrats voted for it.

Well, the Senate could have passed ICC sanctions last Congress, but the Democrat leader chose to drag his feet instead. He blocked it from coming here to the Senate floor. He refused to even allow debate.

This Congress, Senate Republicans have made strengthening our alliance with Israel a top priority. Republicans can't sit back and allow a kangaroo court to wage lawfare against American citizens or our allies. The Senate will not bend to the pro-Hamas crowd. We will stand with Israel in the face of anti-Semitism and in the face of evil, period. Will Senate Democrats join us? We will find out today.

NOMINATION OF SEAN DUFFY

Mr. President, on another matter, since January 20, the U.S. Senate has confirmed five of President Trump's well-qualified nominees. Today we will confirm the sixth.

Former Congressman Sean Duffy is the nominee to be the Secretary of Transportation. Congressman Duffy received unanimous support in the Commerce Committee. As Secretary of Transportation, Congressman Duffy will be responsible for ensuring Americans have reliable infrastructure and safe travel. His job is critical to America's economic success. From the Erie Canal to the transcontinental railroad in the 19th century, from the Panama Canal to the Interstate Highway System in the 20th century, infrastructure transformed our commercial Republic into an economic superpower.

Today, our highways, our bridges, our ports, and our airways need improvement as travel and commerce hit record highs. We need to build great things in America again. Families and businesses need confidence that they will get where they need to go.

Sean Duffy is dedicated to moving our Nation forward. As Secretary of Transportation, he will lead the Department with safety and modernization at the forefront. I look forward to confirming Congressman Duffy today and working with him during this next administration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we can all agree that the border of the United States should be secure. And, of course, we must deport any dangerous individuals who are here unlawfully.

But the Executive orders that President Trump signed this past week don't target criminals. In fact, President Trump terminated a Biden administration policy that required immigration officials to prioritize for arrest and deportation individuals who threaten public safety or national security. Instead, President Trump has authorized

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers known as ICE officers, to make arrests in schools, churches, and courthouses across the country. The President has reportedly even directed ICE to set quotas for arrest, ramping up from a few hundred a day to more than 1,500 per day.

These kinds of arbitrary quotas will ensure that essential workers, family members of U.S. citizens, and so many others who are no threat to this country and are not criminals are caught up in these mass deportations.

For example, just this weekend, Trump officials stated that the raids they conducted were targeted toward criminals. Yet in Chicago, a husband and father with no criminal history was reportedly arrested by ICE on his way to work. His family was only made aware that something was wrong when he didn't show up at his shift. In New Jersey, ICE agents detained and questioned a military veteran and U.S. citizens simply because they weren't carrying on their person a passport or a license. These actions, like many of the President's decisions on immigration, have nothing to do with protecting public safety or national security.

President Trump has also suspended the refugee admissions program. Why is that important? Well, because when American soldiers go overseas to represent this country and to risk their lives for the country that they have sworn allegiance to—the United States—many times they rely on local citizens in those countries to help them. That is what happened in Afghanistan. Men and women risked their lives to step forward and to help our troops, many times to risk their own lives in the service of their country and doing it for the United States. They included families of Afghans who are now facing persecution for that political decision to help the United States.

We have offered to them, after going through extensive background checks, an opportunity to come to the United States. The same thing is true with Uighurs fleeing Chinese persecution and the Rohingya fleeing Myanmar's military dictatorship. Many of these refugees literally wait for decades to come to the United States lawfully—lawfully—and all must undergo extreme rigorous vetting before coming.

But the President canceled flights for approximately 10,000 refugees who had been approved to travel to the United States after waiting for long periods of time and going through extensive background checks. This includes nearly 1,600 Afghans who had been cleared for resettlement. Many of them risked their lives for the United States' cause, and we were giving them safety and security. Those flights have been canceled by President Trump. Many of them fought alongside U.S. troops. Others are family members of U.S. servicemembers. Flights were even stopped for Afghan children who were reuniting with their families in the United States.

Stopping these flights makes America less safe. It is needlessly cruel to American families waiting to be reunited with loved ones. It also sends a message to allies supporting our troops around the world that we will not protect them if they face retribution for helping the United States.

Additionally, President Trump is attempting to deny birthright citizenship to children born in the United States if their parents are not citizens or lawful permanent residents. This is a clear violation of the Constitution.

I want to read the first sentence of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. It is explicit. It reads:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.

One sentence is clear as can be.

This order has been blocked. The order by President Trump has been blocked by a judge who was appointed by President Ronald Reagan. Listen to what he said about the lawsuit challenging birthright citizenship and the 14th Amendment's explicit language:

I've been on the bench for over four decades. I can't remember another case where the question presented is as clear as this one. This is a blatantly unconstitutional order.

I was disappointed to see White House border czar Tom Homan come to Chicago recently with ICE agents, arresting immigrants and asking them questions even after they had requested to speak to an attorney. Do you know who accompanied him on this raid? Dr. Phil. Dr. Phil—a TV doctor—is not an M.D., but for some reason, he was invited to go along with this raid.

Now, do you remember the many speeches given by President Trump, during the campaign, about dedicating himself to ferreting out the young people who were murderers and rapists and drug dealers and the mentally ill who were dangerous to the United States? I took him at his word that that is what he set out to do.

Apparently, Dr. Phil is an accomplice in this effort. He, obviously, has been invited to go along for the ride—on a raid involving people who would be dangerous to the United States? If this mass deportation is truly focused on dangerous individuals—murderers, rapists, drug dealers, and the mentally ill—Dr. Phil has as much business being on these raids as he does performing surgery. Why is he there? In fact, he could complicate the situation. We are talking about a legal process and the possibility of criminal prosecutions following. So to have this television character come along for the ride is dangerous and makes no sense.

I am concerned that these sweeping Executive actions will leave those arrested by ICE, including those with lawful status and U.S. citizenship, with little opportunity to even state their cases and show that they belong in this country.

Let's be clear: 90 percent of undocumented immigrants have no criminal