

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
DINNER SHOOTING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the events of Saturday night were horrifying. It is difficult to believe that this is the third time—the third time—President Trump has faced an assassination attempt. And, as we know, the shooter's ambitions in this instance extended even further, to other administration officials and the Vice President.

I am very grateful that tragedy was averted and that all attendees at the dinner are safe, but I remain deeply disturbed by the fact that we are looking at the third such instance now in 2 years.

I am thankful for the many law enforcement officers who responded, particularly those who secured the shooter before he could harm the President or anyone else at the event, and I am particularly thankful for the Capitol Police, who activated quickly to provide support at the scene and helped not only Members but staffers to make their way home safely.

Saturday night's events were a grim reminder of the need for law enforcement. And, incredibly, some of the law enforcement officers who responded are working for a Department that is currently completely unfunded thanks to Democrats' refusal to negotiate on an Appropriations bill.

I very much hope that, after the weekend's events, we can all agree that law enforcement Agencies at the Department of Homeland Security and the entire Department need to be funded as quickly as humanly possible.

On Thursday, we passed the budget resolution, and we are now one step closer to completing a bill to fund border security and immigration enforcement for the next 3 years. So why are we here? Why are we being forced to consider a reconciliation bill to fund border security and immigration enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security? And why are we moving to fund these priorities for the next 3 years?

The answer is because Democrats have refused to fund border security and immigration enforcement. They refused to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They have refused to fund Border Patrol. They have opted not to protect our borders.

Perhaps realizing what an untenable position that they are in—Democrats have placed themselves in—we have heard a lot of bluster from the Democrat leader on this issue. He would like people to think that we are here because Republicans refused to agree to any ICE reforms and that we somehow prefer funding border security and immigration enforcement through reconciliation. Give me a break.

As the record abundantly—abundantly—reflects, Republicans bent over backward to reach an agreement with Democrats. The White House not only implemented its own ICE reforms after the events in Minnesota, it repeatedly

offered Democrats a robust package of legislative reforms.

The Democrat leader had the nerve to mention body cameras the other day, as if Republicans have refused to agree to body cameras.

So let me just refresh his memory. Back in January, Republicans and Democrats had agreed on DHS funding legislation. And do you know what it contained? More money for body cameras. And then when Democrats reneged on our agreement and demanded more, the White House offered Democrats a number of other things including—that is right—still more money for body cameras.

We are here not because Republicans wouldn't agree to accept reforms but because Democrats would not accept any agreement, no matter how substantive.

The record would suggest that they never really wanted one; that they were in search of a talking point, not a solution, a political issue that they could use in November. But I think it remains to be seen how well “defund law enforcement” and “defund the border” are going to play for them this fall because let's be very clear: That is what this is.

Democrats refuse to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement at all. They refuse to fund Border Patrol at all. What does that mean? It means they have refused to provide any funding for deporting criminal illegal immigrants, no matter how heinous their crimes. It means they have refused to provide any funding for a physical presence at the border.

I talked about the Biden border crisis on the floor last week, about the 4 years of recordbreaking illegal immigration at the southern border that occurred on President Biden's watch.

Well, what Democrats are opting for now is even worse. At least we had the Border Patrol under President Biden. Now Democrats are reeling—reeling—opting for borders that are entirely open.

The evils of the Biden border crisis are still being felt. Last month, 18-year-old Sheridan Gorman, a college student taking a walk with her friends, was shot by an illegal immigrant who entered the country under President Biden and was released from custody in 2023.

And Sheridan is just one of a number of American women who were killed by illegal immigrants who entered the country during the Biden border crisis.

Millions—millions—of illegal immigrants, some of them dangerous individuals, were released into the interior of the country under President Biden.

The Biden border crisis facilitated the passage of drugs across the southern border. It facilitated the passage of dangerous individuals. It left communities and cities, including blue cities far from the border, overwhelmed with the influx of migrants.

I won't recapitulate everything that I said last week on the Biden border

crisis, but it underscores the breathtaking—breathtaking—irresponsibility of Democrats' current position. Border security and immigration enforcement are crucial—crucial—functions of government. They are essential to maintaining public safety, and Democrats have opted not to fund them at all: No personnel at our borders, no Federal agents taking dangerous criminal illegals off of our streets.

“Open the borders” and “defund law enforcement”—that is the position the Democrats now own.

As for Republicans, we will continue to move forward to fund these critical functions of government. As long as we are in charge, we will do everything in our power to ensure that our borders are secure and dangerous criminals are not on our streets.

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. SCHUMER. 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 MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
DINNER SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Well, Mr. President, I and we all are relieved that no one was seriously injured in the shooting at the White House Correspondents' Dinner over the weekend. No matter the perpetrator, no matter the motive, political violence endangers our democracy.

I denounce political violence in all its forms, as I always have and always will.

I commend law enforcement's swift response to apprehend the gunman, which undoubtedly saved many lives, and that includes the Secret Service.

U.S. SECRET SERVICE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the need to fund the Secret Service, I just heard Leader THUNE lashing out. I sympathize with him. He is in a real pickle. He is fighting with his own Republican Party Speaker in the House. His caucus here is factionalized as to what to do, as to how we fund both ICE and CBP and even DHS. They are in a mess.

So what does the Republican leader do? He points fingers at Democrats. That is absurd. The idea that Democrats are somehow to blame for this Republican shutdown of DHS is just ridiculous, and THUNE and his Republican leadership ought to act like adults and help us solve this problem during serious—serious—times like these, instead of pointing fingers in another direction.

At this very moment, funding for Secret Service and so many other Agencies is sitting idly in the House of Representatives, not waiting for Democrats—we don't run the House—waiting

for Republicans. And Republicans somehow, especially the rightwing propaganda, just blames Democrats with no logic, no rationale.

What Republican rightwing propaganda is saying couldn't be further from the truth. Democrats wanted to fund all of the law-abiding Agencies at DHS, and we worked with Republicans, Leader THUNE, here in the House to do it—here in the Senate to do it.

Democrats looked to compromise with Republicans as we pushed for commonsense reforms for ICE and other Agencies, and twice Democrats and Republicans here in the Senate unanimously passed a bill that would fund all of the Agencies within DHS except for ICE and Border Patrol, which are already funded.

Let me say that again. Democrats unanimously—unanimously—supported funding the vast majority of DHS, including Secret Service, not once but twice. We passed it in the Senate, not once but twice.

It was House Republicans, not Democrats, who blocked funding for Secret Service, TSA, CISA, Coast Guard, FEMA, and other Agencies that we all agree should be funded.

House Republicans could and should fund the Secret Service today, but, instead, they are holding it up. So Leader THUNE—if he wants to be constructive, if he wants to get something done—should stop pointing fingers in this direction and start looking in the mirror. At least look down the hall and start talking some sense into the House Republicans, who seem to be tied in a knot because the rightwing MAGA few refuse to go forward.

Republicans ought to start standing up to Speaker JOHNSON and the House Freedom Caucus and say: We must fund this. And that applies to the Republican leader, who has a greater responsibility than just inanely pointing fingers to the other side of the aisle.

To the Republicans—House and Senate—stop with the partisan games. Advance the bipartisan bill that we all passed unanimously in the Senate, and we could get the funding for the Secret Service and other Agencies done.

#### RECONCILIATION

Mr. President, on the budget resolution, last week, the Nation saw what Republicans are prioritizing. Instead of lowering Americans' costs and funding Agencies like the Secret Service, on amendment after amendment and vote after vote, Democrats held Republicans accountable in last week's vote-arama for trying to give ICE and Border Patrol up to \$140 billion but zero dollars—zero—to lower Americans' costs.

Democrats gave Republicans opportunities to join us in lowering out-of-pocket healthcare costs and reducing childcare costs and stopping insurance company delays and protecting school meals. Republicans said no over and over again simply to take \$140 billion and put it into ICE and Border Patrol.

Can you believe it?

Can you believe it, America?

At a time when Americans are crying out for relief, Republicans are tying this Senate in knots—all to cut Trump's rogue Agencies a blank check, with no significant reform—reform that the American people want.

If Republicans think they are finished taking these difficult votes, they have got another thing coming. Democrats will make sure Republicans face more votes on affordability when reconciliation comes back up in a few weeks because it is so important to the American people. We will continue to expose Republicans' economic agenda for what it is: an utter disaster for working Americans. It is no wonder Trump's numbers are lower than they have ever been. He is not addressing what the American people want, and Republicans in the House and Senate just follow him blindly. The GOP has completely lost sight of the needs of the American people right now.

Trump wants to seclude himself in a walled palace—literally. His party is now trying to use their reconciliation process to pave the way for Donald Trump's gilded ballroom. If Republicans truly want to improve security, they should join Democrats in funding the Secret Service, not Donald Trump's luxury ballroom. Americans want us to help them put food on their tables and gas in their tanks, not to help Donald Trump put more gold on his walls.

#### IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, the hole Donald Trump has dug himself into grows deeper and deeper by the day. Every day Donald Trump continues this war, the harder it will be for him to escape that hole.

This Friday will mark 60 days since Donald Trump officially notified Congress of his foolhardy venture into Iran—a war he launched without declaration or authorization from Congress, without a plan, without a goal, without knowledge of how much it would cost or how long it would last. It is incredible. I have never seen such a ridiculous, harmful, unthought-out, erratic foreign policy venture as this war with Iran is—totally started by Trump. There is no clamor in America to do it.

Sixty days is the threshold under the War Powers Act, which several of my Republican colleagues clearly recognize, but it didn't take 60 days for anyone to recognize Trump's mismanagement of this war. We have given Senate Republicans five opportunities to support our War Powers Resolution. Each time, they chose to back Trump and prolong this blunder even longer. Democrats will give Republicans a sixth opportunity to support our resolution this week, and by the end of the week, we will cross the 60-day threshold, and Trump's flaunting of our congressional war powers will be undeniable.

I urge Republicans to support our resolution instead of continuing to tie themselves to this reckless war. I urge Republicans to have a little courage. You hear, when they talk to one an-

other and when they even talk to us, they know what folly this war has been in terms of its costs—huge amounts of costs—in terms of the loss of life, in terms of oil prices, and Americans paying more than \$4 a gallon at the pump.

So, if Republicans were to vote with us, they would be doing Donald Trump a big favor. Negotiations remain frozen; gas prices remain over \$4 a gallon; the Strait of Hormuz remains closed; and our servicemembers, including those actively enforcing a blockade of the strait, remain in harm's way.

The other day, Trump said that gas prices could be high "for a little while." That is what he said. Well, the Pentagon reportedly notified Congress last week that it could take 6 months after the war ends to sweep the Iranian minefields in the strait, and 6 months is not a little while for the American people, who, every week, struggle to figure out how to pay the damned bills. That is what is happening here. Every week, Americans are getting crushed by the costs of this war every time they go to the pump, and that is 6 months after the war ends.

Unfortunately, there is still no end in sight. Trump doesn't know what he is doing. He sends envoys to Pakistan: Leave Pakistan. Be here. Maybe in the first week or two, some people thought there was a strategy here. Now it is clear to everybody there was none, and there is no end in sight.

Democrats will continue to force votes on a War Powers Resolution every week this war rages on. Allowing this reckless war to continue would be a supreme dereliction of my colleagues' duty under the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### HONORING JOHN BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the city of Chicago is in mourning. On Saturday, Chicago police officer John Bartholomew was fatally shot after taking a robbery suspect to the hospital.

Officer Bartholomew had been on the force for 10 years. In that decade, he became known by his station and his community as someone you could always count on. When it snowed, he was the first one outside to shovel. At the station, officers often heard him singing his lungs out in the locker room.

Officer Bartholomew was a loving father, and a faithful husband to his wife Renee.

Loretta and I offer our deepest condolences to the Bartholomew family.

Officer Bartholomew's partner, a 21-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, remains in critical condition. We should all pray for his fast and full recovery.