

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. On Iran, Donald Trump and members of his administration have referred to the fighting in Iran as a "skirmish," a "mini-war", a "little excursion," a "blip" and most recently "a love tap." Let's call the ongoing hostilities with Iran for what they are—a war.

Let me repeat: Donald Trump dragged America into a war—an illegal, costly war—without any goals, without any endgame.

It has been over a week since we hit the 60-day threshold under the War Powers Act, which means the hostilities must cease unless Trump gets authorization from Congress.

Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth tried to skirt the deadline when they told us the timer had stopped because the fighting was over.

Tell that to the American servicemembers who were dodging Iranian drones and missiles in the Strait of Hormuz last week.

Tell that to the American people who just saw headlines the other day about Trump saying we are getting ready for a protracted blockade.

The war is over? Bunk, poppycock, craziness to even say it, but Trump says anything that enters his head which he thinks will please him in the moment—even if he gets himself in trouble by the end of the day.

And to this war, there is still no end in sight. Just today, the most recent round of negotiations with Iran fell apart. Trump keeps digging himself into a deeper and deeper hole.

Meanwhile, Americans are now paying over \$4.50 for a gallon of gas. Families need real relief at the pump, and Senate Democrats will support real action to lower costs, but let's not pretend \$0.18 of gas tax relief per gallon makes up for the damage Trump created with this war. Mr. President, \$0.18 cents isn't \$1.50, which is how much the price of gas has gone up since this war started.

Trump wants credit for handing the American people a glass of water to put out the fire he started—the massive fire he started—when he launched this war.

Americans don't need just a few cents back—they need an end to the chaos that sent gas prices soaring in the first place.

The best way to lower costs is to end this illegal war. Trump could end this war tomorrow and prices would plummet by far more than \$0.18 a gallon.

And Republicans know that this blunder didn't magically end when the 60-day clock ran out. It is time to do something about it, so Democrats are forcing a seventh vote on our War Powers Resolution this week to withdraw United States troops from hostilities with Iran.

If Republicans care about preserving our War Powers, keeping our servicemembers safe, lowering Americans' costs, they need to support the War Powers Resolution and end this war.

If Republicans vote against our resolution, they will continue to bear the blame for Trump's war. Not a skirmish, not a blip, not an excursion—it is a war.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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.

The minority whip.

HONORING OFFICER JOHN
BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week was an opportunity for us to return home to our States and districts, and in my case, the city of Chicago, where it was a glorious week but for one sobering event—we lost one of Chicago's finest—patrolman and policeman John Bartholomew. In the line of duty, he was shot, and we had a tribute to him at his Greek Orthodox church on Hollywood Avenue in Chicago. Hundreds of his fellow law enforcement officers came in from jurisdictions all over the Midwest and across the United States.

John Bartholomew leaves three small children and his wife and family behind. I went to that memorial service, and I was just at a loss for words as I met his mother and told her how sorry I was for what had happened.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. This is Police Week. We are remembering John Bartholomew and hundreds of others who lost their lives in the line of duty to protect us and their families and neighborhoods. We take them for granted until these terrible tragedies occur, and then we come to realize how much is on the line every single day they put the badge on.

I listened earlier when the Republican leader Senator THUNE said this Police Week should be a reminder to Democrats to take police seriously. We do. I trust that both political parties do.

When I was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I looked forward to this week to pass bipartisan—bipartisan—legislation to help our policemen. Under Chairman GRASSLEY in my service as a ranking member, I will join that bipartisan effort again. But I do have to tell you I am disappointed that during Police Week we would consider on the floor of the U.S. Senate nominations for U.S. attorneys who have testified before our committee and said things which I believe do not reflect respect for the law as it should be—particularly when it comes to the January 6 insurrection in the Capitol.

I remember that day. It was one of the most noteworthy days of my serv-

ice in the Senate. When Vice President Pence was presiding, we were counting the electoral ballots for the 2020 Presidential election. At about 2:10 p.m. in the afternoon, someone came in and pulled Vice President Pence out of that chair out that door. People couldn't understand why. There was a demonstration outside—a political demonstration—but we went about our business, and yet something had happened.

At that point someone from the Capitol Police came and stood before us and said: You can continue what you are doing, but stay in this room. We are going to make this a safe room in the U.S. Capitol—a safe room.

It wasn't 10 minutes later until the same Capitol policeman came before us and said: Change of plans. We are evacuating the Senate Chamber, and we all filed out the door to another adjoining building where we were protected.

These Capitol policemen and -women risked their lives for us on that day. I think it was nothing less than an act of heroism and courage for them to defy this Trump crowd that was sent to disrupt the proceedings.

Unfortunately, the mob took over the Senate Chamber. C-SPAN broadcast as they took pictures and photos for one another, went rifling through our desks, and tried to take over the Capitol—we saw that later on. What an embarrassing chapter in the history of the United States.

What is even more embarrassing is the fact that there have been people who have come before us seeking Federal positions since who don't take that seriously—what happened on January 6. Let me give you an example—and this individual is going to come up for a vote this week in the Senate—Police Week.

His name is Phillip Williams. He is from Alabama. Phillip Williams is seeking the U.S. attorney spot in Alabama. He argued that January 6 rioters were "Hunted down by Federal law enforcement," whom he accused of prosecutorial abuse many, many times over.

Williams equated these prosecutions to the Salem witch trials on a national scale. He minimized the attack on the Capitol stating: It certainly was not an insurrection because there was no attempt to overthrow the government.

He criticized the 87-month prison sentence imposed on a rioter named Guy Reffitt because he was nonviolent according to Williams and did not step into the Capitol.

Let me tell you the rest of the story about Reffitt that Mr. Williams, who seeks to represent the Department of Justice in the State of Alabama had to say.

Reffitt traveled to the Capitol on January 6 wearing body armor, carrying handguns, flex cuffs, and radios for communication. Prior to his arrest, Reffitt threatened his own minor children telling them: If you turn me in, you are traitors, and traitors get shot.

Williams contended, without evidence, that Federal judges ruling against President Trump were setting Trump up.

This man who dismissed Mr. Reffitt as a threat on January 6 wants to represent the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Department of Justice, in the State of Alabama. He has no place doing that. And for the Senate to vote for confirmation of this nomination on Police Week is, to my mind, a travesty.

He is not the only one in this group. I want to note one or two others. Darin Smith of Wyoming. Darin Smith, again, is seeking to become a U.S. attorney representing the Department of Justice in the State of Wyoming.

Mr. Smith was present at the U.S. Capitol on January 6—though he claimed he didn't enter any buildings. Regarding the insurrection, Smith contended that rioters were entrapped and that the U.S. Capitol Police were guilty of massive incompetence.

Mr. President, 140 of the U.S. Capitol Police who defended my life and the life of everyone in the Capitol on that day were injured. Two or three died as a consequence of that experience. And for him to argue that they were guilty of massive incompetence is an embarrassing statement. It is a slap in the face to the Capitol Police who risked their lives for me and for other Members.

Mr. Smith baselessly claimed FBI agents who interviewed him regarding his presence at the Capitol were sent there by Representative Liz Cheney "and her goons." Afterward, he demanded that she should be censored by the Wyoming Republican Party.

How do these people proceed through the ranks of the Trump administration to be given such positions of importance when they are so dismissive of the efforts by that mob to first injure the policemen who were doing their duty here in the Capitol and then to disrupt the proceedings that the Vice President was presiding over? The list goes on.

(Mr. McCORMICK assumed the Chair.)

It has been the case ever since Trump has been reelected that when it comes to many judges and many U.S. attorneys, dismissing January 6 as just tourists out of control is acceptable by the Trump administration. Well, it is not acceptable. As someone who lived it, who witnessed it, saw it firsthand, that they are dismissing this operation on that day as simply some political statement is unfair.

Don't salute the police and ignore the obvious. The police were under attack on that day, and to dismiss that is to dismiss the obvious.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, so now we are going to consider a reconciliation bill to spend tens of billions of dollars for ICE and CBP. We all know the story of ICE. We saw it on the

streets of Chicago, Minneapolis, and many other places.

Do you know what is interesting? As I was walking through the airport and all of these policemen were coming in for Police Week this week in Washington—wearing their formal uniforms, smart looking as they were—I didn't see a single one of them with a mask on their face. Yet ICE continues to argue it is the only police force in America that should be masked and the American people shouldn't be able to identify who these ICE agents are. I think that is reprehensible. We are trying to change it, and the Republicans are resisting it. I don't know why.

Let me say also that there is no reference in this budget reconciliation package to language that would rein in lawless immigration agents who are terrorizing communities like Chicago and Minneapolis while carrying out the President's mass deportation campaign.

Just this last week, we had a press conference in Chicago to talk about those who are here in the United States under DACA. DACA is a product of the DREAM Act, which I introduced 22 years ago—a provision in the law which we need to enact which says that if you are here in the United States, brought into the country as a child, that you ought to have an opportunity to earn your way to citizenship.

These young men and women grew up in America, pledged allegiance to that flag in their classroom every single day, and believed they were part of America's future, only to learn when they had become teenagers that their parents brought them in and didn't file the appropriate papers, so now they are subject to deportation.

The DREAM Act addressed that issue, and I called on President Obama and asked him to use his Executive powers to give these Dreamers a chance. He created a program called DACA.

Under the DACA Program, if you were one of the Dreamers, every 2 years, you are to be registering with the government and paying a \$600 fee and going through a criminal background check so that you can continue to work in the United States and not be deported.

So what happened 2 weeks ago? The bureau of immigration came out with a ruling that DACA no longer protected these individuals. How many were affected? Originally, 800,000-plus; today, somewhere in the range of 500,000. They run the very real risk now that if they try to sign up again for DACA, as they are entitled to under President Obama's Executive order, they could be arrested and deported. For more and more of them, that is happening as the weeks go by, and we held a press conference in Chicago to talk about that.

That is ICE at work. That is CBP at work. And unfortunately, these young people, who have no criminal background—they have gone through criminal background checks and are showing

up, as required, to pay their fee every 2 years so they can work legally in the United States—are subject to deportation.

There is also a provision in this bill—hard to believe—of \$1 billion for President Trump's White House ballroom—a billion-dollar ballroom—the same ballroom that he promised the American people wouldn't cost them a penny. He was going to go to his buddies, as he always does, and they were going to come up with the money, and the American people wouldn't have to pay anything. Guess what. The budget reconciliation bill presented by Republicans in the Senate this week requires \$1 billion for this "Great Gatsby" ballroom that the President wants to see. I think that is a horrendous waste of time and money, and it did not go through the appropriate channels.

The President just plowed down the East Wing of the White House, and it sits there as a gaping hole waiting to be filled. It was going to be his billionaire buddies to fill it; now, it is the American taxpayers—\$1 billion. I distinctly recall the President saying that the taxpayers would not have to pay for this.

Add it to that endless list of broken promises—the President ending the Ukrainian war on his first day in office and a long list of contradictions when it comes to the war with Iran. Depending on the day of the week, we are either proceeding with a war or ending a war, wiping them off the face of the Earth or sitting down and negotiating. It is impossible to follow what his strategy might be, and that is just more of the same when it comes to this President.

Mr. President, when it comes to the DACA children, who are now adults, we have to accept the obvious. We made a promise to them—many of us did—which can't be kept under this President.

I remember that day when DACA became official and people could sign up for it. Congressman Luis Guterierrez and I held a meeting at Navy Pier in Chicago, expecting perhaps 800 people to show up. The number was way in excess of 10,000. Some of them waited all night to bring their children in to sign up for this.

There was an initial hesitation by many. They argued: If we identify ourselves to the government under Obama, who is to say that government won't turn on us, arrest us, and deport us?

We gave them our word that we would stand by the promise that we would not use this information they were filing with the government against them in the future. That promise was kept through President Obama, through President Biden, but it hasn't been kept by this administration. Those who are protected by DACA today run the risk—when they go to the Federal Government to sign up and renew their DACA protection—of being detained and deported. We did not keep our promise to these young people, and I feel very badly about that.