

So when you see these newspaper headlines, Trump is backing off because Blanche gave his word. Again, I have a bridge to sell you. No one really believes it. Trump just wants to slide off the hook, hope this goes away in a week or two, and come back and do all the things we caught him doing in the last few weeks.

Trump's word, of course, the American people know is worthless. No one believes he tells the truth. Trump promised to lower Americans' costs on day one and broke it. Trump promised never to cut Medicaid and broke it. Trump promised never to start any new wars and broke it. Trump promised to release the Epstein files and broke it. Trump has made thousands of other promises, big and small, and broke them all.

It is only a matter of time before Blanche and Trump go back on their word and resume their efforts to put your tax dollars in the pockets of MAGA billionaires, violent criminals, and, of course, the Trump family.

If Senate Republicans truly want to stop this corruption, stop relying on the word of a compulsive liar, Todd Blanche, start doing your jobs, and pass legislation to ban Trump's MAGA handouts and his rampant tax-cheating. Ban it by law. Ban it permanently.

That is what Democrats are going to put on the floor. If you really believe it should be banned, you will vote with us. If you are trying to hide, duck, shimmy, whatever, vote no.

Trump may not keep his promises, but Democrats will keep theirs. I assure the American people that. Republicans are going to have to vote on this slush fund on the Senate floor. If Republicans don't vote to ban it, they will have to answer to the outrage of the American people who are sick of lining Trump's pockets when they can't even afford the most basic necessities.

#### RECONCILIATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on reconciliation, after weeks of Republican infighting, we still haven't seen a draft of the Republican radical reconciliation bill. The American people don't need to see the bill text to know that Republicans are fighting for Donald Trump, not for working families. Even without Trump's billion-dollar, taxpayer-funded ballroom, which Democrats successfully killed despite Republicans' best efforts, the bill is rotten through and through.

At a time when Americans can't afford gasoline, housing, healthcare, food, Republicans won't spend a dime to bring costs down but are more than happy to fork over another \$70 billion to Trump's masked agents who have unleashed chaos in our streets and threaten to do it again.

Americans are burning through their savings right now, but ICE and CBP are currently sitting on \$100 billion that Trump and the GOP pumped into these

rogue Agencies last year. The American people need every penny they can get right now to lower costs. Trump's Agencies have more cash than they know what to do with.

Whenever we go into a vote-arama, Democrats will be ready. Every vote, every amendment we bring to the floor will demonstrate that Democrats are standing up for the American people and Republicans are selling out to Donald Trump.

Republicans will have to vote on costs. Republicans will have to vote on tariffs. Republicans will have to vote on Trump's disastrous war with Iran. Republicans will have to vote on ICE and Border Patrol's abuses of power.

Democrats want to lower your costs; Republicans want to waste your tax dollars. Democrats want to rein in MAGA's chaos; Republicans want to let that chaos run wild—no guardrails. Democrats are fighting Trump's corruption; Republicans are aiding and abetting it.

And Republicans aren't out of the woods yet—Democrats are just getting started.

#### WILLIAM PULTE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the Pulte appointment, Trump's appointment of Bill Pulte to serve as Acting Director of National Intelligence appears to have been a hastily considered, backroom deal based on loyalty to Trump, not the security of our Nation.

From what I can tell, no one in the administration consulted the law, which requires the DNI to have "extensive" national security experience—"extensive" national security experience. In contrast, Pulte has a record of abusing his office to attack Trump's political enemies.

The timing of this announcement could not be worse, with just over a week until FISA 702 authorities expire. This announcement and its timing clearly make passing an extension of FISA much harder.

At a time when our Nation is at war and our troops are in harm's way, we need someone serious to lead the intelligence community, not another unqualified, inexperienced partisan.

The security of our Armed Forces, the security of the American people depends on real intelligence and someone who states the facts clearly and boldly. Pulte would be about the last person I would pick to do that. He is simply a hack who does Trump's bidding no matter how egregious that bidding might be.

#### ELECTION TASK FORCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the election task force, as Trump continues to wage war on free and fair elections in America, Senate Democrats' Election Protection Task Force is gearing up to protect our democracy.

Later today, our task force will convene to strategize on our responses to

potential threats to America's elections. The Senators and a first-rate team of election experts on our task force will simulate different scenarios, including interference operations from a foreign adversary, Trump's deployment of Federal agents to polling places, and law enforcement agents seizing ballots from local election officials.

Our task force is keeping Trump up at night because he knows the dire straits he and his party are in as the midterms approach. Instead of changing his disastrous and deeply unpopular policies, Trump has pledged to deploy "an Election Integrity Army in every single State." But in Trump's eyes, he believes that an election only has integrity if he wins it, and he doesn't care if he cheats to do it. In fact, he likes cheating.

Republicans are already ignoring your wages, your healthcare, your rent, your grocery bill, and your freedom. Democrats won't let Republicans ignore your vote too. Democrats will be ready with lawyers, observers, and response teams to respond the moment Trump or his allies try to interfere with our elections. We will be ready, and we will preserve the integrity of American elections—something so sacred for 250 years.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative 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.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, Republicans are ready to move forward on funding critical components of our government—Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol.

I heard the minority leader here on the floor of the Senate a few minutes ago, and it sounds like he is continuing, as the Democrats have been doing, standing with illegal immigrant criminals, protecting illegal immigrant criminals rather than protecting American citizens.

What we are proposing and the bill that we will be discussing today is a bill that is targeted and focused, and it is a vote for safe communities, not for criminals—specifically, criminal illegal aliens. It is a vote for secure borders.

Safe communities and secure borders are the top priorities of American citizens. People want to live in safe communities. They want secure borders. The top priority of the Democrats doesn't seem to be that at all. It seems it is to defund border security, defund law enforcement in this country. That is what they have been for years—protesting in the streets: Defund the police. Get rid of ICE.

We need safety and security for the American people.

What we have seen after month and month and month of Democratic obstruction is very clear: Democrats want to go back to the days of the chaos of open borders, people streaming across the southern border into our Nation. Republicans are not prepared to allow them to do it.

The American people deserve to feel safe at home, safe in their communities. We deserve to have a homeland that is secure. That is why I am saying it is time to pass the Secure America Act.

Earlier this month, U.S. Border Patrol secured a historic record. The record is that for a full year—now that we have a Republican majority in the House and the Senate and Donald Trump in the White House—for a full year, not a single illegal immigrant was released into this country now that we have ended catch-and-release. Catch-and-release no longer exists. Our border is more secure than ever.

But security, of course, is not ever guaranteed. The border is secure because enforcement today is strong and there is a commitment by this administration to enforce the law. But the danger hasn't disappeared. The danger still exists, because just a week ago, U.S. Border Patrol agents and Texas Highway Patrol, working together, arrested 12 illegal immigrants in this country in Southwest Texas. The arrest occurred late at night on a private ranch near our southern border. Among those arrested are six Chinese nationals. All of them were military age, and all of them were captured wearing military-style camouflage—in our country, six Chinese nationals illegally here wearing military-style camouflage. We are not talking about kind of ordinary illegal immigrants here. They are what law enforcement classifies as “special interest aliens.” Now, a special interest alien is a noncitizen whose country of origin or travel history raises concerns of serious national security, a threat.

Special-interest aliens are subject to enhanced security scrutiny, as they should be. These six Chinese nationals wanted to avoid getting caught. We still don't know who they are. We don't know where they came from. We don't know how they got here. We don't know who they planned to meet or where they planned to go next from this remote-site ranch in Texas.

This situation reminds us of a core security principle: National security starts with border security.

Congress cannot allow Democrats to strangle the resources that the Border Patrol needs to keep our Nation safe. The U.S. Border Patrol stands on the frontlines of America's safety. Those are the men and women—the people in Border Patrol—who patrol areas that are rugged and remote, and they put their lives on the line for the rest of us.

They continue to secure our borders. They keep illegal immigrant criminals

out of our country. And they do dangerous and diligent work because they know it is what makes the American people safer.

Joe Biden and the Democrats shamelessly failed to secure the border. Joe Biden and the Democrats undermined the men and women of our Border Patrol.

They turned our southern border into a turnstile. Over 10 million illegal migrants entered our country in those 4 years of the Biden administration. There was no enforcement of the law at the border. It was only abandonment of our border.

President Trump and Republicans have the common sense and the commitment to secure the border. Through the Working Families Tax Cut law, we invested \$170 billion in border security. That is the largest border security investment in American history. Republicans funded the border wall, and we ended Joe Biden's ridiculous catch-and-release plan. We restored the program of “Remain in Mexico” and cracked down on the cartels. We gave Border Patrol the tools and the resources they need to do the job to keep our Nation safe, and Republicans remain resolutely committed to keeping our Nation safe.

By contrast, we heard it here again from the minority leader today: Democrats continue their commitment to open borders and to defunding the police.

Democrats in the Senate right now, this very moment, are obstructing the funding of Border Patrol. They have been doing it for months, month after month after month. This has gone on here since January.

Democrats are choosing protecting illegal immigrants over protecting the American people. They want to defund the police. They want to defund American security. And they are choosing open borders over a secure nation.

That is what their party has become. Listen to their candidates running around the country, running in primary elections. It is a run to the far left—the radical, extreme, dangerous, scary left—who want open borders and want to get rid of immigration control enforcement.

They want to stand with the criminals and the cartels and the foreign adversaries, who right now are watching what we are doing in Washington, DC.

Defunding the Border Patrol is a dream to every criminal in the world who wishes to take advantage of innocent Americans. Why in the world are Democrats standing with them?

If we are serious about safe and secure communities, we must fully fund border security. Democrats will continue to vote against it.

Republicans are standing with the Secure America Act, and we are going to vote on that. It is going to fully fund Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement and do it for the next 3 years. This is going to give law enforcement the tools that they

need to keep illegal immigrant criminals and the cartels and the terrorist suspects out of our country. Republicans support the United States Border Patrol. We will deliver the resources that they need to give the brave men and women of our Nation who are committed to the safety and security of the American people what they need to do their job and to keep us safe.

That is what this is all about. It is, Who are you going to stand with? Who are you going to protect? The Democrats wanting to stand with and protect illegal immigrant criminals? Republicans standing with the safety and security of the American people?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The minority whip.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. We heard it so many times: Rapists, murderers, terrorists, the criminally insane, child predators—we are going to unleash the forces of the United States to keep us safe from these threatening people and dangerous people.

No argument here. But I think you can find, on both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans who agree those people should be the subject of law enforcement, and they shouldn't be allowed to live in our communities, period.

But what has actually happened with this war on immigration from the Trump White House? I have seen it firsthand in the city of Chicago, Aurora, and many other places in my State, where the ICE agents have arrived. America saw it firsthand in Minneapolis, when the ICE agents on the streets killed—murdered—two innocent people who were merely protesting, as they have a right to do under our Constitution.

So where are we today? Well, we are considering an appropriations bill, I assume today or at least this week, called reconciliation, which will appropriate more money for immigration enforcement than ever in our history.

And to give you an idea of perspective of whether it is proportionate to the threat that we face, consider this fact. The amount of money that will be appropriated for ICE agents—remember the people wearing masks in Minneapolis? The amount of money that the Republicans want to appropriate is larger than the appropriations for the U.S. Marine Corps—the U.S. Marine Corps—one of our best fighting units in the history of the United States. They want more money to go after illegal immigrants.

So the question, obviously, is how are they doing with the billions of dollars that are being spent on ICE and Border Patrol? How are they doing? It turns out that six out of the seven people who have been arrested by this immigration force had no criminal record whatsoever—six out of seven.