

And we here have an obligation to make sure that when that call comes, they have what they need to answer it.

We need to make every concerted effort—every—to strengthen our military. There is never a time when we can afford to put this on the back burner. Try as we might, we simply don't know what is coming over the horizon, and we will eventually pay the price for failing to invest in a strong national defense today.

Mr. President, 251 years ago this week the Continental Congress created the Continental Army and appointed George Washington its Commander in Chief. For 251 years, Americans have bravely gone to fight our Nation's battles, and for 251 years, it has been Congress' job to stand behind them and provide what they need to execute the mission.

The face of the battle has changed, but the fundamental duty—theirs and ours—has not. As Washington himself said:

If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace . . . it must be known that we are at all times ready for war.

We have to get national security right. I am glad this year's National Defense Authorization Act is up to the task, and I look forward to bringing it to the floor very soon.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Trump's actions last night make it crystal clear that he is the one standing in the way of FISA.

It was already clear that Trump was the one blocking FISA, but the fact that he withdrew Jay Clayton should erase anyone's doubts. Trump wants FISA to stay expired. Trump is twisting himself up in knots and jumping through hoops to make it impossible to reauthorize FISA right now, and he is embarrassing his Republican colleagues in the process.

Trump can blame Democrats all he wants, but no one is going to believe him. Trump just got caught redhanded undermining America's national security.

Withdrawing Clayton even shocked Trump's closest Republican allies. Trump also reasserted his demand to tie FISA to his radical SAVE Act, which would strip millions of Americans of their voting rights and resurrect the ghost of the Jim Crow south.

Trump is just so, so off base and should get it out of his mind that he can save SAVE by attaching it to

FISA. It ain't happening; it ain't passing.

The SAVE Act is perhaps the most vicious piece of anti-voting rights legislation Trump has ever come up with and has absolutely nothing—nothing—to do with FISA whatsoever.

So every time Republicans find a path to negotiate on FISA, Trump slams the door shut on them. Every time the Republicans find a path to negotiate FISA, Trump slams the door shut on them, and you can hear the howls.

Trump is taking America's national security hostage to serve his own personal interests. This is Trump's hostage note. Here is what he said:

I will not approve FISA . . .

He said:

We are cancelling the Senate hearing . . .

He said:

[Bill Pulte will remain as the acting Director of National Intelligence.

Trump should know national security is not a pawn. It is not a pawn, and yet it is clear that he is holding our national security hostage, and it is absolutely disgraceful.

Trump is gleeful about undermining national security and leaving America vulnerable, saying it is simply to add a "slight bit of intrigue" when Americans' safety is at stake in a dangerous world with dangerous countries? And he says he is adding a "slight bit of intrigue?" Are you kidding me? Intrigue when it comes to America's national security, intrigue when it comes to the safety of our people?

Trump ought to add a slight bit of common sense as he does this. But, again, just to repeat what he said, he said:

I will not approve FISA . . .

We are cancelling the Senate hearing . . .

[Bill Pulte will remain as the Acting Director of National Intelligence.

All three sentences show that Trump is making national security a pawn to his own political and off-base interests.

There can be no other explanation for the choices Trump is making and his insistence on having a political hack like Bill Pulte serve atop our Intelligence Committee, other than he plans to order Pulte to abuse his powers as Director of National Intelligence.

The question for oversight now is: What exactly will Trump ask Pulte to do? Expose intelligence sources? Alter analysis? Target political opponents? Mess with elections?

Pulte has shown that he knows no limits and will do whatever Trump asks, legal or not, ethical or not, in American people's interests or not. Make no mistake, all of the consequences that come from undercutting our national security will fall on Trump and any Republicans who go along with his dangerous, partisan games.

IRAN

Mr. President, there is a lot going on this morning, and I want to speak about Iran. We have been told dozens of

times that this war is over and dozens of times we have been disappointed. Three days after Trump announced his so-called understanding with Iran, the American people still have no understanding of what it actually is because Trump refuses to tell us.

Now, more than ever, the administration must come clean and let people actually know what is in the so-called understanding because when details start to leak in the press, it only adds to the confusion. The administration still hasn't released the text officially and continues to send mixed messages about what the so-called understanding in future negotiations entail.

One administration official told CNN: People shouldn't read too much into the language of the [memorandum of understanding].

Can you believe it? There is something out there, and they say don't believe it, but they won't tell us what it is. The American people have a right to know what it is. The Congress has a right to know what it is.

And they said—another administration official: "What's more important than the actual document," he said, "is the understandings we have with each other."

What are they? We need to know. It is just outrageous—outrageous—that the administration is saying that whatever is in the MOU is not the real agreement. This is foreign policy by clown car, except it is dangerous.

The Trump administration insists that this understanding will bring peace, but they refuse to release the text officially and then say we shouldn't give the memo too much weight because there are secret side negotiations that are more important.

How deceptive. How nasty. How dangerous for the American people.

I call on Trump to brief Congress, release the official text of the so-called understanding to the public, and disclose any secret deals to the American people immediately.

If there are secret side deals, we ought to know about them. The American people have a right to know about them in this dangerous world.

So why is the administration deliberately deceiving the American people by saying: Well, what is in this agreement or what at least is published in this agreement is not true.

The administration is deliberately deceiving the American people because they are afraid it will show that Trump has capitulated and been taken advantage of, that Iran has gotten the better of this deal because Trump didn't know what his goals were when he began it and kept going back and forth, back and forth, back and forth about what it should be, what it is, what is happening.

So I say to Donald Trump: Stop keeping the American people in the dark. Your actions, President Trump, leave Americans wondering, Are our troops safe? What are you promising to Iran? How much longer will gas prices continue to skyrocket?

Americans want to know, What has Trump's war gotten them? What was this whole blunder for?

By every measure—every measure—Trump's disastrous war has left America worse off. No wonder they don't want to release the real details. They are probably—Trump is probably embarrassed.

Iran has more control over the Strait of Hormuz than before Trump's war. The Iranian regime is more radical, more extreme, more hard-line than before the war. Gas prices are dramatically higher than they were before the war.

Americans need to know when this war will end, not in Trump's imagination, not in some document that they discredit but in real life.

Donald Trump, reveal the deal, stop hiding any secret negotiations, and end this war now.

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.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Steel and Holding nominations.

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

The majority whip.

WILDFIRES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, wildfire season is officially here. Across the West, wildfires are devastating many communities, and this certainly includes my home State of Wyoming. The past two wildfire seasons were some of the most destructive that Wyoming has seen in decades.

The drought we are experiencing makes conditions this year especially concerning. As summer continues, rural communities are bracing for another devastating wildfire season.

America is in a wildfire crisis, and the crisis isn't going to be one that will solve itself. Our Federal forests are in dire need of effective management.

The Federal Government must manage our Nation's forests in a serious way and a credible way. For too long, the Federal Government has ignored forest management, and this approach has failed to keep communities safe.

Today, tens of millions of acres of Federal land are at severe risk of wildfires. Overgrown forests have become a tinderbox for large fires. Wildfires threaten our homes, our air quality, our watersheds, and our wildlife.

Without proper forest management, we are going to continue to see costly and deadly wildfires.

We know that active forest management works. This includes the thinning

of overgrown forests. It includes using prescribed fires, and it includes grazing. All of these are tools that measurably reduce the risk of wildfires.

Wyoming has led the way. We have shown that, when you treat more acres and work with local partners, you get healthier forests and safer communities. The rest of the country should follow our example.

At the Federal level, we have seen the Trump administration rightly return to forest management policies that work. Still, Federal Agencies need help. That is exactly why I introduced the Wildfire Prevention Act. The Wildfire Prevention Act is going to reduce the risk of wildfires in our communities. At the same time, it is going to restore the health of our Federal lands in Wyoming and across the rocky Mountain West.

My bill is a pro-first responder piece of legislation. Our Nation's wildland firefighters risk their lives to protect our forests and our communities from these wildfires. Hotshot crews are our heroes in Wyoming. They are highly trained, highly specialized, and their courage and ability keep us safe. My bill gives them the tools and the support that they need to better prevent wildfires and also to fight them more effectively.

My bill also gives Federal Agencies the clear direction that they currently lack to manage our forests properly. Now, this is good for humans, and it is good for wildlife. Our proactive measures are designed to prevent wildfires.

This bill will set real standards to increase thinning, prescribed burns, tree removal, as well as grazing. It will allow Agencies to sell more timber. It will cut unnecessary redtape and streamline management.

These are basic, bipartisan protections. Every responsible landowner follows them. We should expect nothing less from the Federal Government.

It is also important for Washington, DC, to collaborate effectively with States to prevent fires before they happen. That is why my bill includes an important update to codify the repeal of the so-called Roadless Rule. The Roadless Rule was put into place 25 years ago. It was put in place by President Bill Clinton. It has been called a midnight regulation because it was done in January of 2001. Clinton did it in the final week of serving 8 years as President. He waited until the very end, and then, as he was going out the door, he said: Hey, let's put this into place.

The Roadless Rule remains a one-size-fits-all, Washington restriction that obstructs responsible forest management on a State-by-State basis.

I have opposed the Clinton Roadless Rule from day one, and the Trump administration rightly repealed it. My bill makes the repeal permanent. At the same time, it protects the rights of each State to set its own rules. That is the right approach. It is the responsible approach. It is going to promote

public access, wildlife health, as well as smart management.

Local control and local conditions should drive forest management decisions. We can't allow a Washington mandate imposed on States, a quarter of a century ago, to continue to undermine our ability to manage our forests.

Republicans and Democrats have talked about the need for better forest management. We have talked about it for years. Both parties know we need to do better.

The Wildfire Prevention Act builds on what works. It gives Federal Agencies the tools they need to succeed. Our shared forests and our local communities deserve nothing less.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, remember when President Trump announced he would end the war in Ukraine on his first day in office? Instead, over a year and a half later, President Trump and Vice President VANCE have publicly humiliated Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and made embarrassingly friendly overtures to the man who attacked his country—who attacked Ukraine—Russian President Putin. It is hard to understand.

Mr. Putin's response has been to thumb his nose at the United States and any efforts toward peace. In fact, in recent months, Putin has launched some of the deadliest attacks on civilian targets since the Ukrainian war has begun. This invasion by the Russians of Ukraine has now lasted longer than World War I.

Let me repeat that. This invasion of Ukraine by the Russians and Vladimir Putin has now led to a conflict that has lasted longer than World War I.

On Monday, Russia fired a barrage of missiles at several major Ukrainian cities, killing at least 11 people and sparking a massive fire at one of the most important Orthodox monasteries, a UNESCO world heritage site.

And Russia has continued its acts of sabotage and provocation throughout NATO and Europe, not to mention its supplying of targeting information to Iran to hit U.S. interests in the region.

Imagine my surprise when, amid all of these Russian attacks on Ukraine and neighboring countries, the Trump administration sent a U.S. official to Putin's annual economic conference, earlier this month, in St. Petersburg, Russia. We had an official delegation to Putin's economic development conference for Russia, while we were trying to stop them from attacking Ukraine and other countries.

At this annual event, we had the U.S. Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts representing the United States. His name is Rodney Mims Cook, Jr. He was at the event with President Putin, in St. Petersburg, to talk about economic development in Russia.

You may recall that Mr. Cook has been officially helping President