

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

Trump with his grandiose ballroom and arch projects.

Why would President Trump give any U.S. legitimacy to this Russia propaganda event, while Putin continues to bomb Ukraine and snub efforts to end the war?

Why would President Trump proceed with recently reported plans to significantly reduce air and naval assets available for NATO operations in Europe, while Putin continues such mayhem?

On Tuesday, President Trump went as far as to signal that the war in Ukraine was not a priority of the United States. President Trump told reporters at the G7 summit that we had “nothing to do” with a war that was “thousands of miles away.”

I could not disagree more. It is long overdue that the Pentagon spend the \$400 million in Ukraine assistance, which was appropriated by Congress and signed into law by the President, and the \$200 million in Baltic security funds that this Congress passed several months ago.

I raised the point that we had appropriated these funds officially—signed by President Trump—at a recent hearing with Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Rubio. They indicated to me the funds were just getting ready, any day now, to be moved, which I hope is correct, as these should have been sent long ago and should not be delayed any further.

It is also long overdue for this Chamber to act on Russia- and Ukraine-related legislation.

A few weeks ago, the House of Representatives, overwhelmingly and on a bipartisan basis, passed a bill to provide additional security aid to Ukraine and to tighten sanctions on Russia. That is exactly what is needed to force Russia to finally negotiate peace and stop this attack on Ukraine and its people.

Here in the Senate, we have a broad, bipartisan Russia sanctions bill that has been pending for months without action.

So, while we send the President's ballroom representative to represent the United States of America in St. Petersburg, Russia, and talk about Putin's plans for rebuilding Russia's economy—while that is going on—Russia is attacking the Ukrainians and neighboring countries; and the United States, through the President, has announced that it is none of our business.

#### ECONOMY

Mr. President, on a separate topic, last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported and confirmed what Americans already knew: Inflation is at a 3-year high—marking the second straight month inflation has outpaced wage growth. Rising energy costs are crushing American families, and their dollar simply doesn't stretch as far anymore. It is a lose-lose scenario.

In a birthday present to the President, new NBC polling revealed the President's approval rating has hit an

alltime low for his second term. It is no wonder why. In my home State of Illinois, the average household has had to spend \$3,400 more on goods and services during President Trump's second term, despite the President's campaign pledge to lower costs on day one—another broken promise. That is according to a new report released by the Joint Economic Committee.

That same report also details what Illinois families have spent while the President's second term has transpired. Illinois families, on average, have spent \$815 more than in a previous similar period on housing costs, like rent and mortgage payments, and the like; \$310 more for groceries than in President Trump's first year, compared to 2024; and more than \$350 more on gasoline since the start of the Iran war, a little over 100 days ago.

What was the President's official response? “I love the inflation,” the President said.

During the vote-arama earlier this month, on the President's mass deportation funding bill, Senate Democrats offered numerous amendments to address this affordability crisis, which the President has barely acknowledged. Senate Democrats offered a proposal that would have funded the largest Federal grant program to create more affordable housing. We put forth a measure that would investigate health insurance companies that are denying patients the care they need. And we gave Republicans a chance to join us in ending—for good—the President's anti-weaponization slush fund of taxpayer dollars to cop beaters from January 6.

At all of these opportunities, too many Republicans refused to join us. When will the Republican Party join the Democrats in the Senate to provide relief to struggling families in their own home States? Only time will tell. Senate Democrats will continue to put forward legislation to help families with the rising costs of gasoline, groceries, housing, and child and healthcare. We will put Republicans on record. I hope they will join us in a bipartisan effort to give Americans real relief.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### U.S. MILITARY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the U.S. military and its role as an apolitical institution.

For 250 years, our military's most important source of strength has been the trust of the American people. Their trust is hard won and relies upon the belief that our military remains above politics. I fear that trust is being eroded by the current Secretary of Defense.

I want to begin with Dwight Eisenhower. This month marks the 82nd anniversary of D-Day and the American invasion at Normandy. General Eisenhower spent the night before those landings walking among the men he was sending into battle, asking where

they were from, what they did back home, and how were their families.

He wrote two messages after that meeting. The rallying call for the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force was one of those messages, but a second message—a message he had hoped no one would ever read—was written in case the landings failed.

It read:

If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine alone.

Fortunately, he never had to send it, but he wrote it because he understood that the privilege of command carried the full weight of its consequences.

In 1947, Eisenhower addressed the graduating class at West Point. He had just finished commanding the largest military campaign in human history and witnessed the deaths of hundreds of thousands of young Americans. He knew what war was, and this is what he told the cadets:

War is mankind's most tragic and stupid folly . . .

Fifteen years later, GEN Douglas MacArthur—no stranger to war himself—again stood at West Point and said:

[T]he soldier, above all other people, prays for peace . . .

Those commanders understood that lethality is a terrible tool and humility is paramount in warfare.

Last weekend, Pete Hegseth traveled to Normandy to observe the D-Day anniversary. He stood at the American cemetery above the beaches where more than 2,500 Americans died in a single morning. Standing on that sacred historic site, Secretary Hegseth did not use his platform to express humility or unity, but to preach an anti-immigrant message. He said:

Sadly, today, different European beaches are stormed by different dangerous ideologies. Beaches in Spain, in Italy, in Greece and Bulgaria. Boats and men arrive. When will European capitals do something about that invasion?

Well, many historians and veterans, hearing his words, called his speech grotesque. I would call it a desecration and an ignorant one also.

I doubt the Secretary knows that during World War II, more than 300,000 foreign-born individuals served in the U.S. Army alone. More than 109,000 of them were not even American citizens. They were men and women who crossed an ocean to fight and die for a country that had not yet fully claimed them and earned their citizenship through their service.

Hundreds of thousands more were first-generation Americans, the children of immigrants. For example, U.S. Navy coxswain Amin Isbir, the son of Syrian immigrants who settled in Pittsburgh, was among the first men off his landing craft when it reached Omaha Beach under heavy fire. After securing his landing craft on the beach, he was killed by a German shell while helping load a fellow wounded soldier onto a stretcher.