

They didn't know how the Senate works, and they certainly didn't know him.

LINDSEY, for many years, was the only Republican who was willing to co-sponsor the DREAM Act, a bill that I introduced over 20 years ago and had reintroduced in successive Congresses, which provided protection to undocumented immigrants who had been brought to this country as children. His support took guts. At a time when issues surrounding immigration were becoming politically toxic, LINDSEY stuck his neck out for me and for these young people. I will never ever forget it.

I will also never forget a meeting that LINDSEY and I had with President Trump in his first term in 2018. It was a meeting to discuss a possible comprehensive immigration reform package. It didn't go well at all. President Trump made what I considered to be profane comments about some immigrants, but I won't repeat them here.

LINDSEY, while sitting next to me in the Oval Office, passionately, vocally, and with real commitment disagreed with the President, arguing that America is not defined by race or color but by its ideals and of the many contributions that immigrants have made to our Nation. He said to the President, as I sat right next to him in the Oval Office, that he was just wrong; that these people who are immigrants make a difference in America. It was the story of our country, and LINDSEY said it was the story of his family.

LINDSEY spoke publicly about this interaction after it occurred, and despite the scorn that he earned from certain segments of the Republican base, he stuck to what he believed was right.

When I happened to become the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 4 years, LINDSEY GRAHAM was my ranking Republican. He sat right next to me in every session of that committee. We had our share of disagreements over issues and nominees, but I knew that his word was always good. If he told me he was going to vote for something or some person, he did—he delivered—and we had a good working relationship between us—no cheap shots, no stabs in the back.

He voted in favor of 75 percent of the judicial nominations that we considered while I was chair, and there were 235 lifetime appointments that came out of that committee. Even though they were nominated by a President from a different political party, he announced early on that, if I expect Democrats to vote for Republican nominees, I have to support Democratic nominees to show the same spirit of cooperation. And he did. He kept his word. That was who LINDSEY was. He was proud to be a fierce Republican partisan, but he never lost sight of the need to work across the aisle to make a difference in the lives of Americans.

Loretta and I send our condolences to LINDSEY's family and his legion of

friends in South Carolina and around the world.

He was an extraordinary Member of the Senate. He helped to make it work. There was never any bipartisan meeting of a gang—or however you would characterize it—during which LINDSEY wasn't within its ranks.

I remember when John McCain and he led the Republican side of an immigration reform effort, and I was part of that on the Democratic side. After months—literally months—of negotiating, we brought a package to the floor, which passed with an overwhelming bipartisan vote, showing that we could do things like that and that we should still be able to. For those things to occur, it is not just a matter of having a good idea; you need good people who are willing to be respectful of one another and to work hard to find common ground. LINDSEY was one of those people.

NATO SUMMIT

As I noted, Mr. President, our trip last week to Türkiye was an effort to discuss some of the war and peace issues of our time. Lindsey knew the stakes at play in Ukraine and the importance of standing up to Russian tyranny. This topic was top of mind for all of those who attended the NATO summit, which concluded in Türkiye last week. I attended the summit with a bipartisan group of Senators, including Senators JEANNE SHAHEEN, MIKE ROUNDS, CHRIS COONS, and Congressman MIKE TURNER. Senator GRAHAM joined us as part of the visit as well.

With the war in Ukraine entering its fifth bloody year, the timing of this event was important, as tides begin to turn in Ukraine's favor. Not only did Ukraine repel the initial invasion by one of the world's largest armies, but it is increasingly showing progress in winning this conflict. Russia has been unable to seize additional land and is suffering staggering, staggering losses—losses that no political leader can sustain for a war of folly. Ukraine has also increasingly taken the conflict to Russia, weakening its energy and military infrastructure and turning Russian public opinion against the war in Ukraine. And unlike Russia, Ukraine is careful not to strike civilian targets.

I am happy to report from the NATO summit that the alliance remains determined to see Ukraine defend itself from Russia. Most of the 32-member bloc—formed from the ashes of World War II—have notably increased their defense spending. They are contributing more funding, equipment, and personnel and are reminding one another of their commitments to and the importance of this historic alliance.

I was glad that President Trump attended the summit. He and President Obama were right to push our allies to pay more of their fair share for the cost of NATO. But President Trump's constant rhetoric of belittling the alliance and his dreams of conquering Greenland and other follies have been

ill-timed, boorish, and counter-productive. They send exactly the wrong message to President Putin about American resolve and commitment. They put countries such as the Baltic States and Poland at even greater risk of future Russian aggression.

Already, Putin is testing the alliance through sabotage, hybrid attacks, misinformation, and assassinations. And with the war turning against Russia, Putin may lash out further. This is not the time for President Trump to show Putin any weakness.

So I was heartened by the incredible solidarity and resolve on full display at the NATO summit. Quite simply, NATO is alive and well, as is allied support for Ukraine. Congress continues to show strong bipartisan support for NATO, including through funding, troop level requirements, and the Baltic Security Initiative. But we can do more—notably, by helping Ukraine with desperately needed air defense. We should also continue to keep U.S. troop deployments as part of NATO efforts in frontline NATO member states. And we can, at long last, pass one of two bipartisan Ukraine bills pending in this Chamber—one of them being a sanctions package that LINDSEY GRAHAM worked with Senator BLUMENTHAL tirelessly to build support for. I understand that Lindsey had finally arranged for this measure to be introduced even this week. I hope we will still go forward with the bill without delay.

HUNGARY

Mr. President, lastly, after the NATO summit, we had a chance to visit Hungary, one of our NATO allies.

There was a recent election in Hungary that unseated Viktor Orban after 16 years—a period that included democratic backsliding and being a thorn in the side of European efforts to help Ukraine.

I want to congratulate the Hungarian people on this peaceful transfer of power and decision to play a more constructive role in European security, including standing with Ukraine. Theirs is a welcome choice that we should support here in the Senate, something I will do in my remaining time.

IRAN

Mr. President, on a separate subject, last week, President Trump declared that the cease-fire with Iran was over, after the United States launched a wave of retaliatory strikes in response to Iran's firing at commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz. I wish I could say I am surprised by this, but I am not. President Trump started this war with a genuine destabilizing regime without thinking it through. As I have said over and over again—a cliché which happens to be accurate—it is a lot easier to get into a war than it is to get out of it, as we are learning in Iran every day.

Iran's response—striking U.S. and allied targets in the region and holding the strait and global economy hostage—was equally foreseeable. The Iranian regime, much like Vladimir Putin

in Russia, seems to be repeatedly trying to humiliate the United States and play for time.

The original misstep may have occurred even earlier, when President Trump withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear agreement during his first term—a deal that was working to restrain Iran's nuclear ambitions. Now we seem to be floundering back into a much weaker deal, one that bewilderingly includes billions of dollars to help Iran rebuild.

I hope wiser heads will prevail, and I look forward to congressional review of any ensuing deal with Iran, as required under the bipartisan Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING LINDSEY GRAHAM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, my prayers and those of my family are with Senator GRAHAM's family, staff, and friends after his sudden, sudden passing yesterday. We see the white roses on his desk, and we think of LINDSEY.

Senator GRAHAM devoted much of his life to public service—first in the military and then in Congress, where he represented South Carolina for more than three decades. To the very end, Senator GRAHAM's life was defined by public service. He was an important Member of this institution and a crucial voice for his constituents in South Carolina.

For all of our many and vehement disagreements, Senator GRAHAM and I still found ways to work together. One of the first things we did together was travel to China. We both believed that China was manipulating its currency, hurting American exports, hurting American jobs, and together we hammered away at that issue.

At first, neither the left nor the right believed us. Amazingly enough, both the New York Times, a liberal publication, and the Wall Street Journal, a conservative publication, said there is no such thing as currency manipulation, but GRAHAM and I proved to be correct, and we took some real efforts over the next few years to stop that manipulation and the outflow of American jobs.

We worked together and hashed out a framework for commonsense, comprehensive immigration reform—the so-called Gang of Eight led by myself and Senator McCain and with LINDSEY GRAHAM as a key member. We worked hard. We didn't agree on everything in our bipartisan immigration proposal,

but we agreed it was worth trying because doing nothing was worse. We also found common ground in our effort to aid Ukraine after the Russian invasion.

I know that if Senator GRAHAM were here in the Chamber today, he would also join me in urging the Senate to support Ukraine and strengthen sanctions on Russia. I urge Senator THUNE in honor of LINDSEY to put the Russia sanctions bill on the floor immediately. It will pass overwhelmingly and help our allies in Ukraine.

Not seeing eye to eye is no reason to be blind to the way forward. LINDSEY could understand that. Every Senator ought to do the same.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now, on the shutdown: Well, somehow, Republicans are even in a bigger mess now than when they left Washington 2 weeks ago. It was hard to make things even worse, especially while we were on the July 4 recess, but they did. Donald Trump is the mastermind at making things worse and worse and worse.

Just this morning, Donald Trump told "FOX & Friends":

Republicans have to [terminate the filibuster]. It's so insane. Otherwise, we're gonna have a shutdown in September.

The Trump shutdown—he is bragging about it; he is predicting it. Republicans have to terminate the filibuster, or we will have a shutdown in September, says Donald Trump.

So it is clear. It is very clear. I know the Senator from Wyoming talks about Democrats wanting a shutdown. Well, he ought to listen to Donald Trump. He is the one who wants it. It is clear, if we head toward a shutdown in September, it will be Trump who is responsible. He is telling the American people he wants a shutdown.

Oh, Donald, do you remember the last time you called for a shutdown, when you challenged NANCY PELOSI and I in the Oval Office and told us you wanted a shutdown? Donald, it didn't work out too well for you then. It won't work out well for you now either.

And to all the Republican Senators, including my good friend from Wyoming, who keep insisting that Democrats are hell-bent on shutting down the government, well, they ought to listen to what their own President is saying. Democrats aren't saying we want a shutdown; Trump is. Donald Trump is saying the quiet part out loud. He has no issue with shutting down the Federal Government to force through his radical agenda.

If Republicans want to clean up their mess, it will require working with Democrats, not seeing us as partisan foes but as fellow Americans. Instead, what are Republicans doing? They are advancing a lopsided, partisan spending bill that would supersize the budget for Trump's disastrous war with Iran without providing cost relief to working families or reining in Donald Trump's corruption. That is unacceptable.

Let's put Republican accusations to rest. Democrats want to fund the gov-

ernment and avoid a shutdown and pass strong, bipartisan appropriations bills that improve people's lives. Democrats believe our budget ought to help families make ends meet. Democrats want a budget that invests in bringing down American costs, not one that burns taxpayer dollars on Donald Trump's reckless war.

Republicans have plenty of time to drop their "my way or the highway" partisan game. Most Republicans know how ridiculous the SAVE Act is, how unconstitutional it probably is. But Trump is still insisting on it because he thinks it is the only way he can win an election is by fixing it, by eliminating tens of millions of people from the voter rolls. And so he says: Unless I get my way—a little temper tantrum here, Donald—I am going to shut down the government. It is something that the American people can see through in a minute, as they can see through the very unpopular SAVE Act.

If Republicans follow Trump over the cliff and insist that the government shut down if they don't get their way, it will be Donald Trump's disaster.

NOMINATION OF TODD BLANCHE

Mr. President, on the Blanche nomination, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche has spent this confirmation fight doing what he has always done for his client—his No. 1 client—Donald Trump: denying the obvious, defending the indefensible, and lying under oath.

As Attorney General, your No. 1 client should be the United States of America; but here, Blanche, his No. 1 client will be Donald Trump, who has no regard for our Constitution, for our values, for the rule of law, for honesty. Blanche's resume reads like a rap sheet. In his time at the Department of Justice, Blanche has helped the administration defy dozens of court orders blocking their illegal policies. Blanche continues to withhold 3 million pages of the Epstein files and lied under oath to Congress about meeting the Epstein survivors—something they deny.

Blanche was the mastermind behind and the champion of one of the most despicable acts of corruption ever in the American government: the \$2 billion MAGA slush fund to give taxpayer-funded cash payouts to Trump, MAGA billionaires, and January 6 insurrectionists.

Can you imagine having this guy as Attorney General when he came up with this slush fund and propounded it? One of the most corrupt acts anyone has proposed—any Attorney General—and they want to put him in. Oh, my God.

I am pleased a Federal judge rebuked that blatantly corrupt slush fund and sweetheart immunity deal for Trump and his family, but we haven't seen the last of this administration's corruption. Blanche has devoted his career to serving Donald Trump and particularly his corrupt purposes. Blanche has gone after Trump's enemies, covered up Trump's crimes, and shielded Trump from the consequences.