

of a government, of a new nation, based on philosophical principles—a nation inaugurated not by conquest but on a set of ideas.

And what ideas: All men are created equal. Where before in the history of governments do we find that? All men are created equal. No one is given special dignity by nature; no man has a divine right to rule over any other. No, all men are created equal—created equal and endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights, rights that cannot be taken away, rights that are not the gift of government but of nature and of nature's God, rights that government must defer to and defend.

As everyone knows, the United States is currently hosting the World Cup. The media has been filled with stories on how much visitors to this country are enjoying the United States. They are encountering the American character: generous, optimistic, big-hearted, friendly. And they are embracing it.

And it occurs to me that that American character almost unquestionably has a lot to do with our founding principles. When you believe that all men are created equal, when you believe that they have God-given rights and dignity—well, that has consequences.

All men are created equal. There is no class of divinely appointed rulers, no hereditary aristocratic class, no barriers set to prevent you from rising. Those principles have consequences.

So I don't think it is surprising that Americans are generous and big-hearted and optimistic and friendly. I think it is the natural consequence of the principles that we espouse.

Every Fourth of July is a day of celebration, but this one—marking 250 years—was particularly special. South Dakota was honored to welcome President Trump to our fireworks at Mount Rushmore—a truly spectacular event. There is no better place to reflect on the majesty of this great country.

It is fitting too, though, that along with the celebrations—along with the fireworks and the parades and the hot-dogs and the hamburgers—that July 4 be a day of thanksgiving for the Declaration of Independence and the Nation it founded, for the blessing of liberty, and for all those who have pledged their lives to its defense, from the founding of our country to the present day.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, in his “Concord Hymn,” referred to the opening shot of the battles of Lexington and Concord as “the shot heard round the world.” If I may borrow his phrase, I think it is fair to say that the Declaration was the “statement heard round the world.” It is still—still—heard round the world to this day, and I pray it will be heard until the end of time.

May God bless our beloved country and keep us faithful to the principles for which we stand.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Donald Trump's election speech tonight is not about the election Trump lost 6 years ago; it is a threat against the election he is afraid to lose this November.

Trump may control the microphone tonight, but he will not control the verdict in November. The voters will have the last word, and Senate Democrats will rebut Trump's lies every day. We will fight like hell to make sure Trump can't silence voters.

Trump's prime-time speech tonight isn't simply about relitigating his overwhelming defeat in the 2020 election; it is about undermining the 2026 election before a single vote has been cast. Trump won't expose anything of substance about 2020; he will just echo the same stale, baseless, pathetic lies he has repeated for 6 years.

Donald, you have been trying this shtick for 6 years. Only your little coterie of sycophants still believes these lies—no one else.

You can say it tonight, Trump. You can say it tonight. You can say it tomorrow. You can say it every night until election. No one believes you. The election was not stolen.

Trump keeps chasing his tail, going round and round and round in circles so many times, he has left a rut in the ground. Every time he tells a lie, he digs himself deeper into the hole. Trump's fixation on these conspiracy theories reeks of desperation.

Trump knows he can't defend Republicans' disastrous record—his disastrous record as well—so he is trying to discredit the voters who will judge it in November.

Hey, Donald, the reason your numbers are so low is because you are obsessed with BS like this instead of what Americans actually care about.

The American people are fed up with Donald Trump. Americans are fed up with the chaos in their streets, fed up with the corruption in their government, fed up with sky-high costs in every part of their lives because of this administration's policies. Voters are sick of forking over their tax dollars to line Trump's pockets and to fuel his failed war in Iran.

Trump has given up on winning over hearts and minds. Now he is focused on rigging rules and purging voter rolls. Instead of changing course on their deeply unpopular agenda, Trump and the GOP have launched a coordinated, multifront campaign to subvert the 2026 election.

But don't worry, America, it will fail.

Trump has called for Republicans to “take over voting in 15 states in the country.” That is what he said. Trump said:

We want to take over. We should take over the voting. . . . Republicans ought to nationalize the voting.

It is in his own words.

Trump has issued unlawful Executive orders to try to kill vote-by-mail. The administration is packed to the rafters with election deniers, including key election oversight positions. MAGA loyalists like Todd Blanche and Kash Patel have used the DOJ and FBI to torment election officials and foment lies with politically motivated investigations designed to sow doubt and instill fear. Trump's Republican allies in Congress keep pushing the SAVE Act, the most devious voter-suppression legislation Trump has ever dreamed up.

Donald, when it comes to the SAVE Act, the courts have rejected it, Congress has rejected it, and even members of your own party have rejected it. Give it up. The SAVE Act isn't going anywhere.

There is no way we are letting this administration feed Americans' personal data into an algorithm Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and Russell Vought created and let it pick who gets to vote.

Donald Trump made life harder and more expensive for the American people, and now he wants to make sure the American people can't hold him accountable at the ballot box. That is what Trump's speech is about tonight. But in America, voters choose their leaders; leaders do not choose their voters.

Senate Democrats are going to fight like hell to make sure our elections belong to the voters, not to Donald Trump.

The country does not belong to Donald Trump. The ballot does not belong to Donald Trump. The verdict does not belong to Donald Trump. It belongs to the American people. And this vote in November, they will deliver it.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Now on Republican inaction on ICE, two more people have been gunned down in the street by Trump's ICE agents, and all Republicans have done is shrug their shoulders and point fingers. Senate Republicans know full well they were the ones who abandoned commonsense reforms to rein in ICE on multiple occasions.

Yesterday, Senator COLLINS of Maine tried pinning the blame on Democrats even though she voted against an amendment requiring ICE to wear body cameras just last month. Absolutely shameless. Absolutely shameless.

If Republicans had accepted our proposal for body cameras, warrant requirements, use-of-force standards, training, and other basic reforms used by every law enforcement agency across the country, these killings could have been prevented. Instead, Republicans jammed through a partisan bill

that pumped tens of billions of dollars into Trump's rogue Agencies without any restraints whatsoever.

So it was Senate Republicans who chose not to make reforms to ICE, as Democrats tried to push them. Americans know exactly who to blame for unleashing the chaos on the streets.

Where were Senate Republicans when Trump immediately reinstated the vehicle stops policy that led to these killings? Where were Senate Republicans when the administration said ICE agents had "absolute immunity" after the Minneapolis murders? Where were Senate Republicans when we gave them opportunity after opportunity after opportunity to reform ICE?

There is blood on the streets, and the blame is on the Senate Republicans.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Westercamp nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, over just the last couple of weeks, the people of Wyoming have celebrated two very important events: July 4, Independence Day, as America turned 250; and July 10, Wyoming Statehood Day. My home State of Wyoming turned 136 that day. We celebrated both of those great occurrences all across the State for a full week.

We had the iconic Cody Stampede Rodeo in Cody, WY. We saw volunteers in Gillette serve over 4,000 hot dogs at the Independence Day community celebration. We saw the Boy Scouts in Sheridan serve over 1,000 pancake breakfasts. And my Rotary Club in Casper celebrated the values that started our country. We had Wyoming best-selling author C.J. Box read the Declaration of Independence at a community gathering in Carbon County. The streets were packed for the Independence Day parade in Cody, and people then gathered at Veterans Park for the annual "Let Freedom Ring" celebration. The seats were full for the Big Wyo Rodeo in Sheridan and the Casper Rodeo finals just this past Saturday night. Our entire congressional delegation attended parades and festivities all across the Cowboy State.

This is the America that we saw these past 2 weeks. Yet there is another vision being offered to this country today, and we see it on the other side of the aisle. It is the vision being offered by the Democrats, and it is a

dark vision, indeed. It is a vision of open borders, of high taxes, and of lawlessness. It is a vision that damages our communities and disrespects the values that Americans hold dear.

Today's Democrat Party has taken a radical turn to the left. Today's Democrat leadership is enabling it. America's largest city—the hometown of the minority leader, Senator SCHUMER—is now being run by a professed socialist. Our Nation's Capital is about to elect one as well.

People proclaiming to be socialists are winning Democrat primaries across the country. In Michigan, a Democrat front-runner for the U.S. Senate is campaigning with an extremist who blames America for the September 11 terrorist attacks. These were the attacks that 25 years ago cost the lives of 2,977 Americans.

Extremism drives the Democrat Party, and its influence within the party is growing. Here is what they want: Democrats want open borders. Democrats want to defund the police. Democrats want to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Democrats want to abolish the U.S. Border Patrol. Democrats want to weaken law enforcement. They want to make it harder to remove illegal immigrant criminals from our communities. Democrats want to pack the Supreme Court. They want judges who will rewrite the law and ignore the Constitution. Democrats want to abolish the electoral college. They want to make it possible for only a handful of big cities in blue States to control the selection of the next President. Democrats want higher taxes. They want hard-working American families to pay for healthcare for illegal immigrants. Democrats want to keep affordable, available, reliable American energy in the ground.

That is today's Democrat Party. They are radical, they are extreme, they are dangerous, and they are scary.

You may have noticed that, in the middle of a heat wave, the new Democrat mayor told New Yorkers to turn up their air conditioning to 78 degrees. Why? Because the New York power grid was collapsing.

How could that be? Why was the New York power grid collapsing? Well, because New York Democrats—pressured by climate extremists—shut down reliable nuclear powerplants.

Welcome to the Democrat Party of 2026.

Alarming, in this very Chamber, Democrat leaders are cheering on the radical left. After socialists swept their primaries this summer, one Democrat Senator said that "this is a very good trend."

Another said it is a sign that their party is "alive and well."

Another said we are now seeing the "future of the Democrat Party."

By contrast, Republicans continue to deliver results. We passed the Working Families Tax Cut law. We stopped the largest tax increase in American his-

tory. We put more money back into the pockets of millions of hard-working Americans. Ninety-six percent of Americans who make under \$200,000 a year benefited from the Working Families Tax Cut law.

Republicans secured the border. We passed the largest investment in border security in American history. We fully funded ICE and Border Patrol for the next 3 years, and we are deporting illegal immigrant criminals.

The contrast is clear: Democrats stand for high taxes, open borders, and lawlessness. Republicans stand for freedom, liberty, and American greatness.

America is worth defending. America is worth celebrating. America is worth fighting for. That is what Republicans are committed to doing, and that is what we did as the people of Wyoming over the Fourth of July.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING LINDSEY GRAHAM

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about our colleague Lindsey Graham, who tragically passed away last weekend.

Lindsey Graham was the definition of the word "patriot." He loved this country and dedicated his life to serving this country. He was from humble backgrounds. His parents ran a bar. And, again, tragically, he lost his parents at a young age. His mom died when Lindsey was 20, and his dad died when he was 22. And so, as a young man, he took over the care of his sister DARLINE, who was only 13 years old.

He was the first in his family to go to college and then got a law degree, joined the Air Force. And to help take care of his sister, he adopted her so she could get his Air Force benefits. He served our country in the Air Force and in the National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, a total of 33 years, retiring at the rank of colonel and a Bronze Star.

He began his career in politics in 1992 in the South Carolina Legislature and got elected to the U.S. Congress, the House of Representatives, in 1994. He was the first Republican to be elected from his district since 1877. He served in the House for 8 years and then came to the Senate, 2002, taking over for Strom Thurmond. And he has been a dynamic personality in this body, and I have had the privilege to get to know him and call him my friend.

Lindsey Graham was part of the glue for the Senate, and not just for Republicans but for Republicans and Democrats. He worked across the aisle. Just a few days ago, my colleague from Delaware was talking about how he