

Then earlier this year, Democrats shut down the Department of Homeland Security because they didn't want to fund law enforcement. That is right.

Defunding law enforcement—once a fringe position in their party—became the official position of the Democrat Party as they tried to completely—completely—defund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol.

Once again, it didn't matter to Democrats whether Americans would be less safe with open borders. Their audience, far-left activists, wanted them to defund border security and immigration enforcement officers, so they did.

And Democrats weren't done. Last week, Democrats here in the U.S. Senate blocked the National Defense Authorization Act, the bill that authorizes funding for our military. That is right. Democrats voted against authorizing funding for our military.

It is a sad day when Democrats are playing politics with everything all the way up to our national security, but that is where we are. Democrats have had numerous opportunities in the last year and a half to work with us on things that matter to the American people. And, again and again, they have chosen to follow members of their far-left base, in some cases—see New York City's mayor—follow them directly into socialism.

That is right. Self-identified Democrat socialists have been winning elections across the country.

So what is next? Will the Democrat Party adopt the platform of the Democratic Socialists of America?

To quote the New York Times again, "Many Americans say the [Democrat] Party does not share their priorities."

A year and a half later, it is obvious that that is still the case: men's and women's sports, abortion up until the moment of birth, open borders, defunding law enforcement.

Instead of moving toward the middle, Democrats are just getting more extreme.

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 executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, roughly a year ago, President Trump made good on his "MASS DEPORTATION NOW!" promise—it was a campaign pledge—when he unleashed ICE into cities across the country to carry out his brutal immigration crackdown. In its wake, including in the city of Chicago, the so-called "worst of the worst"—remember? The President said he was going after those who were rap-

ists, murderers, terrorists, criminally insane, and predators. The "worst of the worst"—that is who we are going after. He said it over and over and over again. Turns out that the "worst of the worst" didn't fit in that category at all. Who were they? Some were U.S. citizens, legal residents, and people with no prior criminal history whatsoever—none.

The administration brutally carried out this political theater by deploying military-grade weapons and using overwhelming displays of force that left communities and our country on edge.

I saw it firsthand in the city of Chicago: Operation Midway Blitz. In our Hispanic neighborhoods, people were afraid to come out to go to church, afraid to send their kids to school. Were these criminals who were harboring their children from going to school? Hardly. They are people who work in common jobs every single day, who stood next to you in the line in the grocery store, and who were with you in the pew at church on Sunday. "Worst of the worst" didn't hold up at all.

At its peak, tensions boiled over with the killing of two American citizens at that time. We saw it in real time and on videotape: Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minnesota.

After the public outcry, these ICE raids were quietly scaled back by the Trump administration and Stephen Miller. But now Stephen Miller, the President's domestic adviser, and Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Mullin are quietly resuming these efforts, with immigration arrests surging this month to the highest levels in this administration. I assume they felt that America just wouldn't notice that they were back in business, but we have.

In the last 2 weeks, two fatal shootings by ICE agents in Texas and Maine have thrust this government's tactics back into the spotlight.

Earlier this month, ICE shot and killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo during a traffic stop in Houston. Mr. Araujo had lived in the country for more than 30 years and was not the intended target of the operation. He is survived by his children, who are U.S. citizens.

Instead of investigating, the ICE agents detained the witnesses that were around the scene. The Harris County district attorney has said these witnesses are critical to the investigation, but they have been detained by the ICE agents.

Last week, Joan Sebastian Guerrero was also shot and killed while in his vehicle in Maine. He is survived by his wife and their 3-year-old daughter, who will now grow up without a father.

The ICE agent who fatally shot Mr. Guerrero was hired by the Trump administration despite the fact that he has a long history of domestic violence, abuse, and mental health issues. Yes, a man with a long history of mental health issues, abuse, and domestic violence was hired as an ICE agent and

given a gun and a mask. It is not clear whether ICE simply failed to vet him or identified these issues and ignored them.

DHS quickly rushed to claim that both shootings were justified, without any body-worn camera footage or any serious investigation.

You know, it is interesting. This Agency, which is actively trying to arrest, detain, and deport thousands of people, meeting quotas set by Stephen Miller each day, the agents involved in this are not like your hometown police. They are not like your State police either. We know that their background checks are obviously very weak, and the training is limited. We also know that when they are on the job, on the clock, they are wearing masks.

When is the last time your local police wore a mask in your hometown? How about your State troopers when they pull you over on the highway? Are they wearing masks? Of course not. But this is insisted on because these ICE agents are so notorious.

These fatalities that I have talked about could have been avoided. These people could be alive today. After the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, we tried time and again to get our Republican colleagues to sit down and agree just on some basics. Without a search warrant or an arrest warrant, a person posing to be a policeman should not be crashing down the door of your home. That is pretty basic, isn't it? If there is a warrant or extraordinary circumstances, that is one thing, but the ICE agents crashed down the door of people they suspect might be in the United States undocumented. Many times, they are just plain wrong. Sometimes, those homeowners turn out to be U.S. citizens.

Yet when we sit down and say "That should be basic in America, shouldn't it? If somebody is going to invade my home, with my wife and my kids or grandkids in there, for goodness' sake, they ought to have at least the color of law behind them, the support of the court behind them"—not ICE agents—every instance we have tried to make these changes—simple, commonsense law enforcement changes—the Republicans said no. Instead, the administration has lurched in the opposite direction, enabling these abuses to continue.

On the heels of these back-to-back killings which I have described, ICE temporarily paused traffic stops, but President Trump quickly took to social media to personally reverse that decision. The President said:

"The men and women of ICE are doing a GREAT job!"

Despite the recent reports of killings—

... and "we CANNOT give up one of I.C.E.'s most important and effective Crime Fighting tools, THE TRAFFIC STOP!"

Being pulled over and shot in your car has to be part of the strategy of ICE, according to the President. Traffic stops have been among the deadliest

tactics during this President's mass raids, but apparently, he doesn't care.

According to the New York Times just yesterday, the FBI has informed its agents around the country that the FBI would no longer investigate alleged assaults by immigration agents. Why is that important? I will tell you. This change will sharply limit law enforcement scrutiny of ICE agents.

For years, the Department of Justice's involvement in officer-involved shootings has provided an independent set of eyes and often uncovered crucial facts, including misconduct by Federal officers—misconduct that has been evident in recent cases.

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General has at least agreed to investigate the use of excessive force by ICE agents, but it is unacceptable that the government's top law enforcement Agency, the FBI, has reportedly chosen to ignore its mission to enforce the law and instead does the White House's bidding.

At a time when the American people are demanding more transparency and answers, the administration gives us less.

We mourn the loss of these beloved community members, and Senate Democrats will continue to call for an end to these fatal raids.

TRUMP PRIME-TIME ADDRESS TO THE NATION

Mr. President, on a separate topic, last week, the President of the United States delivered a prime-time address from the White House. These sorts of addresses are usually reserved for national crises or the marking of a major milestone. So what was the occasion last week for President Trump to make such an address? To air 6-year-old grievances and lies about the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election.

You see, despite the fact that Donald Trump lost to Joe Biden in 2020 by 7 million votes, President Trump refuses to acknowledge the truth, and he continues to complain, which was the reason for his statement last week. In a 25-minute rant, the President alleged sweeping foreign interference in voting and railed against the so-called deep state. He was actually railing against his own administration. You see, the 2020 election was during his first term as President. He was in charge. He appointed the people that were supposed to enforce the law. The press conference and the announcement last week ignored that fact.

These claims would be laughable if they weren't so dangerous.

First, the President was famous for not reading and requesting shorter and shorter versions of a brief provided by our intelligence community each day. He alleges the deep state misrepresented what actually happened to hide information from him.

Second, his then-Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe, whom President Trump now has leading the Central Intelligence Agency, made public remarks addressing all of these concerns in 2020. It is hard to hide infor-

mation you publicly discuss in press conferences.

President Trump claimed the Department of Homeland Security has identified 278,000 noncitizens registered to vote in Federal elections. Think of that. The President of the United States claimed that his Agency of government has the names of 278,000 noncitizens registered to vote in Federal elections. Well, I sure want to see that evidence. I am sure the American people do too. The President can't produce it. It doesn't exist—none, not one page of documents backing up the claims he made in his public statement. No evidence. Election experts and State officials have called out this claim as “wildly speculative.”

Here are the actual facts. You know the SAVE America Act which the President is focused on, fixed on, can't think of anything else? The idea behind it is to make sure that noncitizens don't vote in the United States.

Would you guess that it is currently against the law in the United States for noncitizens to vote? It is true.

Well, let's take a look. Took a look at the Heritage Foundation, which is a conservative group, and asked them to provide information on how many noncitizens have been caught trying to vote in the United States. When we took a look, between 1993 and 2023—that would be 30 years, 1993 to 2023—millions and millions of votes were cast. How many noncitizens have we identified tried to vote in those elections? Well, if we are going to change the laws of the United States, there must be a lot of them. Turned out there were 77. Out of the millions of people who registered and voted, 77 were actually not citizens of the United States.

The President wants to change the law. And how does he want to change the law? Well, if you want to register to vote, under the President's approach, you have to prove you are a citizen of the United States.

How can you do that?

Well, I will show my driver's license.

I am sorry, that is not enough under this law. Under this law, you would have to show your passport. Got one in your back pocket?

Half of Americans don't own a passport.

If you want to get a passport so you can vote in the next election in about 100 days, what does it take? Well, you go to the passport Agency, and you plop down \$165—that is what it costs for a basic passport in this country—and then you hope—you hope—it arrives in time. If you want to speed it up, get an accelerated process, it is \$225.

So in order to exercise your right to vote, under the SAVE America law, the President wants you to pay a poll tax, a passport fee, of up to \$225 to vote. Anything wrong with that? That is just against most of the laws we have promulgated over the years saying that poll taxes on people to vote are fundamentally unfair.

Oh, you can bring your birth certificate.

I was thinking about that when I was home over the weekend.

I asked my wife: Where is my birth certificate?

She said: I think it is in a box in the closet. We haven't seen it in a long time.

Well, according to the President's SAVE America bill, you are going to have to produce one.

Incidentally, if you are a woman with a maiden name on a birth certificate, you have to have additional documentation.

All of this to stop the scourge of noncitizens who voted. There were 77 of them over a 30-year period of time—77 in a nation of millions of people. But the President can't get it out of his head that somehow or another that foreigners have taken over our election. He lost one, and he just can't live with it.

So why would the President have hosted a prime-time address attempting to resurrect these debunked claims? I will tell you: It is exactly what he did in the months preceding the 2020 election that he sought to steal. He is trying to lay the groundwork to justify rigging the results of the next election. That is the real political theater.

President Trump and his Republican Party are struggling in the polls. They know their MAGA agenda is making life more expensive, communities less safe, and government more corrupt. And guess what. We are now again, sadly, in a never-ending war.

So now they are focused on reviving thoroughly debunked conspiracy theories to undermine future elections before a single vote is cast.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. President, as we heard in the President's address, he will use these bogus claims to push for passage of this anti-democratic and anti-voting SAVE America Act.

It is already illegal for noncitizens to vote in the United States. They face prosecution and jail time for doing it. The SAVE America Act attempts to solve a problem that does not exist. The bill would impose expensive administrative roadblocks, making it more difficult for people to vote. Is that what America is all about, difficulties and hurdles for exercising our right to vote? I don't believe it will.

We need to stop this effort immediately. We need to give the American people the last word in the election in November, not the President and his bizarre theories on who won in 2020.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. DURBIN. Oh, of course. I am sorry. I didn't see the Senator on the floor. I yield to my friend from Wyoming.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.