

The President promised he was going after “the worst of the worst”—“the worst of the worst.” So two people in Minneapolis lost their lives. Were they “the worst of the worst”?

Renee Good, mother of three, and Alex Pretti, a nurse at the VA hospital in Minneapolis, an extraordinary person, as we have come to know—American citizens, both—neither one of them fit the categories that the President railed against during his rallies and campaign. Instead, these two innocent people were taken from their families and their communities, far too soon, in instances of senseless violence at the hands of the U.S. Government.

Donald Trump’s immigration enforcement operations have not restored the so-called law and order that he promised and have not targeted “the worst of the worst.” They have done exactly the opposite. In every place the Department of Homeland Security’s roving squads have descended—whether Chicago, Minneapolis, or any other city—they have brought chaos, disorder, and fear. These operations have created a public safety crisis, with families terrified to leave their homes.

I have seen it firsthand in Chicago. I go into the Hispanic areas of that great city, and the people are living in fear. They are afraid to leave their homes. Parents and school administrators are struggling to explain ICE attacks to children, and Americans are desperately trying to protect their neighbors.

The American people support orderly immigration enforcement that removes violent criminals from our streets, but how we do it matters. Indiscriminate violent roundup of American citizens, legal residents, and people with no criminal record erodes civil liberties and threatens the rule of law.

The American people have seen this play out with their own eyes, and they have had enough. This is the time to rein in this lawlessness now. Congress has 2 weeks to act. With the support of the American people, Senate Democrats stood firm and made clear we would not provide the votes to increase funding for the administration’s illegal terror campaign.

I am pleased to say that last Friday night, the Senate passed five remaining bipartisan appropriations bills, and all the bills together that we have passed fund 96 percent of the Federal Government. Over the course of the next 2 weeks, we will continue to negotiate with the White House and Republicans to deliver much needed reforms to the DHS appropriations bill and to rein in the illegal excesses of ICE.

As part of those negotiations, Democrats stand strong for the following commonsense measures. First, Federal immigration agents need to remove their masks, turn on their body cameras, and wear visible, clear identification. I have met with law enforcement officials—people who have given their lives to it, career people—and asked them: Why do you need to be masked?

Why do you need to have secret police in the United States of America?

They said: You don’t.

Unfortunately, it undermines public confidence in law enforcement across the board. To allow these masks and to not require carrying video cameras is to invite the problems which we have already witnessed.

ICE is not a secret police force. It wasn’t meant to be, despite what President Trump may wish.

Second, we need to end the roving patrols. ICE does not have free will to do as they please. This is a nation of laws, guided by the Constitution that everyone, including ICE, must abide by. This means Federal immigration officials must stop racial profiling and random arrests.

You have seen the videotapes, and I have as well. In a Home Depot parking lot, a Latina—Hispanic woman—gets out of the car and starts to walk into the store and is stopped by ICE agents who want her to show proof of her citizenship. That kind of thing is not what we expect in America but, rather, in authoritarian regimes, which have no respect for individuals.

They cannot detain Americans for hours or use excessive force against them just because they peacefully protested in support of neighbors and friends.

ICE squads descending on homes, bursting through doors to conduct arrests, isn’t just violent and frightening, but it is unconstitutional. Agents must obtain a judicial warrant signed by a neutral judge, not an administrative warrant in-house, to enter private property.

You have seen the videos—we have all seen them—where they are trying to crash down doors by hitting them with axes. Those individuals don’t have the authority to do that.

What I am quoting—the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution—is black-letter constitutional law.

Third, we need accountability. ICE and Border Patrol squads can’t indiscriminately smash in car windows, use tear gas on protesters, and shoot at people without accountability. This is America. This is unacceptable.

A uniformed code of conduct will rein in aggressive and excessive immigration enforcement to bring about accountability and, hopefully, begin the long process of restoring trust. When the immigration agents fail to follow the code of conduct, the Department of Homeland Security must coordinate with State and local officials to conduct a fair and independent investigation.

In conclusion, as these negotiations continue to play out, I will continue to do my part to hold the administration accountable. After I asked Secretary Noem of the Department of Homeland Security to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee all of last year, she refused. Now she says she just might be available in 4 weeks and find some time in her schedule to finally

appear before a congressional committee in a public hearing and answer questions, under oath, about her mismanagement—tragic mismanagement—of this Agency. She has a lot of explaining to do. We should hold her to account, both Democrats and Republicans.

My office will continue to document and report any and all instances of excessive force and abuse at the hands of immigration agents in Chicago and elsewhere.

As Federal District Court Judge Biery said in his order, this weekend, requiring the release of Liam Ramos from ICE detention, “Observing human behavior confirms that for some among us, the perfidious lust for unbridled power and the imposition of cruelty in its quest know no bounds and are bereft of human decency. And the rule of law be damned.”

What a condemnation of what is going on in Minneapolis and Chicago and other States.

It might be hard to imagine, but, one day, the Trump Presidency will end. The statute of limitations for these crimes, however, will extend beyond that date. When the day comes that Donald Trump leaves the White House and his successor moves in to finally bring some order to this chaos, there will be accountability. The Department of Justice, free from its weaponized quest of retribution against Trump’s perceived enemies, will have all the information it needs—video proof—to pursue criminal charges against government officials who actually are violating people’s rights.

In the meantime, my colleagues and I will continue to shine a light on these abuses, uphold the tenets of basic human decency, and defend the rule of law.

I urge my Republican colleagues to swiftly agree to these Democratic reforms in DHS funding so that we may actually put a check on the excesses of this administration and this national terror campaign.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The majority leader.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 609.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Megan Blair Benton, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 609, Megan Blair Benton, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, John Cornyn, Jim Banks, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, Kevin Cramer, David McCormick, Jon Husted, Dan Sullivan, Lindsey Graham.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 612.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Charles Lea, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 612, Brian Charles Lea, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, John Cornyn, Jim Banks, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, Kevin Cramer, David McCormick, Jon A. Husted, Dan Sullivan, Lindsey Graham.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, over the course of the last year, President Trump has been engaged in just a

stunning array of acts to enrich himself and his family using government policy, the power of the White House to essentially trade away U.S. policy, U.S. national security secrets in exchange for investments in Trump himself, making himself rich off of being President of the United States.

I am coming to the floor today because over the weekend, through good old-fashioned investigative journalism, we discovered what might be the most corrupt act in this administration amidst a dizzying array of daily corruption.

The Wall Street Journal reported over the weekend that 4 days before Donald Trump's inauguration, an investment firm closely tied to the United Arab Emirates secretly signed a deal with the Trump family to purchase a 49-percent stake in a company called World Liberty Financial. That is the Trump family's fledgling cryptocurrency venture. They run that business in coordination with the Witkoff family—the Witkoff family, of course, headed by Steve Witkoff, who is, not coincidentally, the President's chief Middle East adviser.

The company that made the investment that took this 49 percent stake is backed by an individual named Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan. That is UAE's National Security Advisor. But he is also deeply embedded in a number of very important companies that dole out investments from the United Arab Emirates.

One of the companies he is involved in—Tahnoon is involved in—is an AI firm called G42. This is all important to understand the scope of what we just discovered over the weekend.

On behalf of his company, G42, Tahnoon has been arguing that the United States should sell G42, a UAE company, our most sensitive AI chips. We have not sold this hardware to UAE in the past. Both Republican and Democratic administrations, both Republican and Democratic Members of the Senate, both Republican and Democratic Members of the House have said we cannot sell this advanced AI hardware to UAE because of the well-known integration of UAE's national security service, including this individual, with China.

So we have never sold these chips to UAE because we were pretty sure—and, again, this was a bipartisan consensus. We were pretty sure that these chips would just flow straight to China, and China cannot—cannot—get control of this advanced AI hardware.

It was shocking to most national security experts, shocking to Republicans and Democrats in Congress, when, shortly after the President's inauguration, he decided, against the advice of his national security advisors, to sell these chips to the UAE and, in particular, to this company owned by Sheikh Tahnoon.

Let me just accentuate the bipartisan nature of the opposition to this decision to transfer the technology to

the UAE. In 2024, the Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, MICHAEL MCCAUL, raised the concern and asked for a probe of Microsoft's \$1.5 billion investment into G42. Again, this is Republican Chairman MCCAUL says to the Biden administration: I need you to do an investigation into—not the U.S. Government transfer, but Microsoft's investment into G42—citing integration between the UAE and China.

As I noted, it has been reported that this decision to sell these chips, valued at \$1 billion, was done over the objection of the senior national security officials, including the Senior Director for Technology at the NSC who argued for restricting access to these advanced chips.

But Trump goes through with the sale, leaving everybody scratching their heads. This is really bad for American national security. Everybody knows if you give these chips to the UAE, they are going to likely find their way into Chinese hands, but he green-lights the sale of \$1 billion of these advanced chips.

And this weekend we found out the likely reason: Secretly, days before the administration, this UAE company, helmed by the individual who stands to benefit by the sale of the chips, makes an investment of \$500 million secretly in Donald Trump's company World Liberty Financial.

Now, just so you have no illusions, there is no separation between Donald Trump, Steve Witkoff, and World Liberty Financial. World Liberty Financial is affiliated with a company called DT Marks DEFI LLC, and President Trump reportedly owns 70 percent of that company. The rest of the 30 percent is believed to be split amongst Trump's sons.

DT Marks, by the way, is not held by the Trump Organization or any of its companies; it is a company owned directly by Donald Trump.

Steve Witkoff said that he was divesting his stake in this company, World Liberty Financial, but in a disclosure that he filed as late as September of last year just months ago, he still had a stake, a financial interest in that company.

So Steve Witkoff, the Middle East adviser, Donald Trump, the President of the United States, direct owner stakes in World Liberty Financial, days before the inauguration, a \$500 million payment, a deal to pay World Liberty Financial \$500 million for a 49-percent stake is done in secret.

Now, we don't know the full extent of that sale, but at the very least, \$187 million is going directly from this UAE company into the Trump family's pockets, at least \$31 million is going directly from this UAE company into the pocket of the Witkoff family.

It is not a coincidence that a secret deal is done in which a foreign government puts money directly into the hands of the President of the United States, secretly, and then very soon