

thereafter we find out that the President is throwing out years of national security policy. He is discarding the advice of his advisers, and he is going to hand that country that just gave him \$187 million national security secrets.

Now, of course, this isn't the first time that President Trump has done business with this particular individual, because Sheikh Tahnoon also runs a company called MGX. MGX put \$2 billion worth of investment towards the President's business empire earlier in the year.

Now, this was done in public, so we saw it all for ourselves. But it was no less corrupt just because it wasn't discovered by journalists. In that deal, this UAE company decided to finance an investment in a company called Binance with Donald Trump's cryptocurrency. At the time, Trump's cryptocurrency was a fledgling product in the market. It did not have any big backers.

Guess who comes to the rescue? Sheikh Tahnoon with another one of his companies. He finances a \$2 billion investment in Binance with Trump's cryptocurrency, almost overnight making that cryptocurrency one of the most successful—one of the most highly traded in the industry.

Now, in that case, the investment wasn't directly by UAE into Donald Trump's company. It was financing a venture in Binance with Trump's cryptocurrency. But just because the corruption was a little bit more oblique, doesn't mean that it wasn't corruption.

In this case—in this case—it is a direct investment by a foreign government, a half a billion dollars directly into a company controlled and run by the President of the United States.

There is no record in the history of the United States of a foreign government making a direct investment in a company owned by the President of the United States. No wonder they did this in secret. No wonder they tried to get away with it without anybody knowing.

The UAE doesn't give this money away for nothing. They were asking for these national security secrets. They were asking for this advanced chip technology.

And it is just not a coincidence. You don't have to be born yesterday to understand that there is a connection between the payment to Donald Trump, the investment in his business, and the transfer of the national security secrets.

I just don't want this to become normal. I just don't want us to paper over multimillion-dollar corruption—the President of the United States, every single day, profiting off of his position. I don't understand why our Republican colleagues excuse this. The White House has become a nonstop corruption machine.

Never, ever before in the history of the country has the President of the United States so openly, so brazenly,

so consistently worked to use the immense power of the Presidency to enrich himself. Never before in the history of the Nation has something like this happened in secret: The President of the United States taking payments from foreign governments, put in his own pockets, and then handing them national security favors that the United States had never been willing to do in the past.

You know, back during the Biden administration, there were endless hearings. There were nonstop speeches on this floor about the Biden crime family. You guys went wild over this, despite not a single allegation ever being made of an exchange by President Biden giving favorable government treatment in exchange for a personal benefit to the President.

The closest Republicans ever came was that the President's son Hunter Biden had been named to the board of an energy company in Ukraine when his father worked on Ukraine policy.

You know how many boards the Trump kids have been named to in the last 12 months? You know how many contracts, government contracts, have been given to those companies that the Trump kids just got put on the boards of magically when their father became President?

Listen, what Hunter Biden did was wrong. I said it at the time. He shouldn't have been on that board. But there was never a single allegation that President Biden did anything for that company that his son was on the board of or got a single dollar in exchange for his son's service on that board—investigations, speeches, hundreds of hours on FOX New—not a single allegation.

Trump enriches himself every single day off his office—every single day. Foreign governments buy him things—luxury planes, investments in his companies, sweetheart deals, licenses to build hotels—all in exchange for favorable treatment from the U.S. Government. It is all out there in the open for people to see.

This was a case in which they knew it was so egregious—it was so wrong—that they did it in private. What we are talking about here is stunning: a secret payment of at least \$187 million to Trump's family; a payment of at least \$31 million to the family of Trump's top Middle East adviser; and then, soon after, a gift of national security secrets to the UAE that, up until those two secret payments, every American President had refused to give. That is corruption. Those are the elements of a bribe. This is potentially criminal conduct.

The rule of law may be suspended today. Republicans may not be willing to do anything about this corruption simply because the President is of your party. For now, Trump and his friends may get away with these crimes and with this corruption, but the rule of law is coming back. And when it does, everyone who has greased their palms

off government service—trading government favors for cash and violating the laws of this Nation—are going to jail.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORENO. Madam 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. MORENO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call in relation to the Fowlkes nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Mr. MORENO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3; and that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 610, David Fowlkes; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Fowlkes nomination; and if cloture is invoked on Executive Calendar No. 611, Nicholas Ganjei, the Senate vote on confirmation at 2:15 p.m., and the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Ganjei nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, and if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MORENO. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the rollcall vote on the cloture of the Fowlkes nomination, remarks of Senator KENNEDY, and resuming of legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORENO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote commence immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant bill 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. 610, David Clay Fowlkes, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Tim Sheehy, John Cornyn, Roger Marshall, John Barrasso, Rick Scott of Florida, Markwayne Mullin, Ted Budd, Cynthia M. Lummis, Jim Justice, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, Tommy Tuberville, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David Clay Fowlkes, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "Yea", the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) would have voted "Yea", and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "Yea".

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 21 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Banks	Grassley	Moreno
Barrasso	Hassan	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeben	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Shaheen
Cornyn	Kaine	Sheehy
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tuberville
Curtis	Lummis	Whitehouse
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Durbin	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kelly	Schatz
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	King	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Booker	Markey	Smith
Cantwell	Merkley	Van Hollen
Coons	Murphy	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warnock
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warren
Gallego	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—11

Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Cramer	Luján	Scott (SC)
Fetterman	McConnell	Tillis
Graham	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 40. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of David Clay Fowlkes, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

The Senator from Louisiana.

CHAGOS ISLANDS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes about national security and top-of-the-list, king-of-the-hill, a No. 1 stupidity.

These are the Chagos Islands. The Chagos Islands—there are 60 of them. They are here in the Indian Ocean. One of those islands is an island called Diego Garcia, on which the United States and our friends in Great Britain have one of the most—if not the most—important military bases in the world. It is jointly administered by both the U.S. and the UK—though, truth be told, most of the firepower is provided by the United States of America.

We use Diego Garcia to conduct training missions. We use it to reload submarines. In fact, it is one of the few military bases where we can actually reload submarines. We use Diego Garcia to respond to tensions throughout the Middle East, throughout Africa, and throughout Asia. Recently, we relocated several B-2 bombers to respond to Iran's aggression toward demonstrators.

There aren't words in English to overstate the importance of the Diego Garcia military installation.

Now, the United Kingdom owns the Chagos Islands. In 1814, the Chagos Islands were owned by France, and they were ceded to the UK.

The UK also owned another island down here called Mauritius.

For many, many years, the United Kingdom, which then owned and still owns the Chagos Islands and in 1814, was ceded Mauritius—for many years, the United Kingdom administered the Chagos Islands from Mauritius. Mauritius never owned the Chagos Islands.

Mauritius and the Chagos Islands were owned—both—by the United Kingdom, and the United Kingdom administered both islands or groups of islands from Mauritius.

Let me say it again. Mauritius never owned the Chagos Islands.

In 1968, the United Kingdom decided to give Mauritius its independence, but the United Kingdom kept the Chagos Islands. Subsequently, as I mentioned, the United States and the UK built one of the most important military bases in all of human history on Diego Garcia.

Why am I telling you this? Well, a few years ago, Mauritius filed a lawsuit with the International Court of Justice.

The International Court of Justice, as you know, Mr. President, is part of the United Nations, and I don't mean any disrespect, but nobody pays any attention to them. They don't have any authority. They certainly don't have any authority over the United States of America, and they don't have any authority over the United Kingdom either.

But Mauritius files this lawsuit with the International Court of Justice, and it says: The United Kingdom is a bunch of mean, old colonialists.

Now, remember, this is the United Kingdom that gave Mauritius its independence in 1965. Nonetheless, as soon as Mauritius got its independence, they filed a suit in the International Court of Justice and said: The UK is a bunch of mean, old, White, racist colonialists, and we want them to give us the Chagos Islands.

Huh? They actually said: Give us back the Chagos Islands.

Mauritius never owned the Chagos Islands.

But anyway, predictably, the International Court of Justice ruled in favor of Mauritius. I don't think anybody was particularly surprised, nor did anybody pay particular attention until, in recent years, United Kingdom Prime Minister Starmer—the current Prime Minister of the UK is leading the charge—came up with this idea. Why? I don't understand. I guess the Prime Minister feels guilty somehow.

He said: OK, we are going to give the Chagos Islands that we own back to Mauritius—even though Mauritius never owned them—we are going to give the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, but if the United States agrees, we are going to keep the military base here in the Chagos Islands, on Diego Garcia, and—get this; this is really special. Even though the UK owns the Chagos Islands, they said: We will give it to Mauritius, and we will pay Mauritius squillions of dollars to lease from Mauritius the military base for 99 years.

Now, I have thought about why they would do this. Real strong drugs are the only possible explanation for the Prime Minister of the UK to do this—to give away something that the United Kingdom owns to a country that never owned it and pay the country to lease what the United States and