

the procedures of ICE and CBP when it comes to this Presidential campaign. To think that innocent American citizens are being shot and killed in our streets is unacceptable, unthinkable, unimaginable, but it is a fact, and that is why we are standing for the premise that these agents have to be held to similar standards that police and troopers are held to all across the United States.

How many of your State troopers are wearing a mask today to go out and do their job? In Illinois, none; in your State, probably the same. How about your local police? Are they wearing masks? Do they have video cameras on?

The basics of policing that we accept as professionalism have been rejected by the Department of Homeland Security. We are trying to establish a standard for these enforcement officers that is comparable to the standard of your police and State troopers and deputy sheriffs. That is it.

When I talk to law enforcement leaders in Illinois, they shake their heads and say: How many of our law enforcement officers are wearing a mask every day? None—virtually none.

Yet they are insisting that these ICE agents and CBP agents wear a mask. They say it is for their own safety. Let me tell you what is for their safety: to have the confidence of the people you are trying to protect. That, when it comes to safety, is the standard we should have. Wearing a mask and no identification does not instill confidence in the body politic.

Secretary Noem wasted no time in labeling all three of the victims that I referred to—Marimar Martinez, Renee Good, and Alex Pretti—as domestic terrorists, misleading the American public and causing immeasurable pain to their families. They were not domestic terrorists or anything like it. Yet she said it in each of the three instances.

So last week when Secretary Noem finally appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee, my colleagues and I sought to hold her to account. She proceeded, unfortunately, to lie under oath multiple times, including saying DHS followed court orders and had not detained American citizens, despite ample evidence to the contrary.

But Noem's abysmal track record wasn't enough to spur the President into action. What was the tipping point? Well, it turned out she had a multimillion-dollar—in fact, over \$143 million—self-promotional campaign which showed Kristi Noem riding horses at Mount Rushmore while wearing cowboy shoes and outfits, talking about how tough she was. Well, it turned out President Trump got wind of it and said to one of the Senators: She spent more money on her self-promotion campaign than I spent to get reelected.

Think about that.

As we started asking questions about this TV promotion campaign, it turned

out it involved some firms she had been doing business with in her home State. Too many questions.

Donald Trump announced that our colleague from Oklahoma Senator MARKWAYNE MULLIN will succeed Kristi Noem. We will find out how he plans to lead the Department in this perilous moment as the Senate exercises its authority under the Constitution to provide advice and consent on this nomination.

I want to make it clear for the record what happened last week. Senator PATTY MURRAY of the State of Washington, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, came to the floor and made a unanimous consent request that we fund every other Agency under DHS, as we had agreed in a bipartisan manner, and work solely on ICE and CBP to come up with an agreement and establish some reasonable policing standards.

Who objected to funding the rest of this Department? The Republican leader. So he had his chance—and I think he will have it again, I hope, soon—to restore the funding for these critical Agencies at this moment and give us enough time—we certainly have enough time—to work out an agreement on the procedures when it comes to ICE and CBP.

It won't be unreasonable to ask Senator MULLIN, if he pursues this appointment by the President, what he will do to change this Department in those critical areas. What does he think about shooting innocent Americans in the street? What does he think about his officers wearing masks? What does he think about them carrying video cameras to record exactly what happens at these scenes? What does he think about someone bashing down the front door of your home without a judicial warrant, without the permission or the approval of a judge, in accordance with just basic policing across America? These are fundamental questions.

The Republican leader said earlier: We can do something this week.

Yes, we should. We have been waiting for the White House to pitch in in a constructive way. Now is the moment to do it. I certainly hope we can achieve it this week, as Senator THUNE promised.

#### IRAN

Mr. President, I am afraid to report President Trump has broken yet another campaign promise to the American people.

This is from the New York Times. The headline: "Trump, the Self-Declared Peace President, Goes to War Seeking Regime Change." The article goes on to say:

President Trump has become increasingly willing to assert American power overseas, a decade after propelling himself to the highest office by promising to focus on "America first."

Throughout the 2024 campaign, President Trump promised there would be "no new wars" if he were elected, but early in the morning of February 28,

Americans woke up to a video from the President announcing that the United States had begun "major combat operations" in Iran. President Trump took this drastic course of action without consulting with our allies, the U.S. Congress, or the American people.

The Constitution makes it clear—article I, section 8—that only Congress can declare a war. This President does not believe that.

President Trump has tried to position himself as the peace President, but his actions tell a different story. In the last year alone, he has conducted military operations across three continents and threatened to militarily take over several countries, including Greenland from our NATO ally Denmark.

With Iran, we have seen gas prices spike, American lives lost, and risk and uncertainty in a difficult region—all, I worry, without a strategy or endgame.

In the first 6 days of this war with Iran, the administration and the White House announced six different reasons for the war.

It is apparent when you look at reports of the countless Americans stranded in the Middle East that this administration did not prepare a proper evacuation plan. It is obvious in President Trump's rhetoric as well.

Just last week, when we asked if we should be worried about retaliatory attacks on America, he responded:

I guess.

This is a chillingly callous statement when faced with the prospect of American casualties.

Recent briefings from this administration did little to address the same concerns I had when I was one of 23 Senators in October 2002 to vote against our invasion of Iraq. When I listen to the rationale from the Trump administration for our invasion of Iran, it sounds like the echo of the argument made about Iraq. Remember when we were looking for weapons of mass destruction which threatened our allies and even the United States? We finally invaded the country, took a quick look around, and realized there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Now when it comes to Iran, five or six different rationales have been used to explain why we invaded this country.

First, they said to stop them from developing nuclear weapons. We are all for that. In fact, the inspectors who were making sure they didn't develop them were removed from Iran under the first Trump administration by orders of President Trump. It doesn't make any sense to argue we need inspectors when he removed them in the first place, which he never should have done.

Second, there is an argument that they are developing ballistic missiles that threaten the United States. Those are months, if not years, away from development. How do you justify this current invasion?

Regime change. If the President thinks he can use missiles and aircraft

to achieve a regime change, I think he is dreadfully wrong.

Finally, the notion that Israel is going to attack anyway, so we might as well join in.

When you listen to these rationales, they change by the day. Who was designing this scheme, this plan, this strategy? Simply, it is easier to get in a war than it is to get out of one. The President is going to discover that, I am afraid.

I served in this Chamber during the Iraq war. I visited Walter Reed Hospital many times to see soldiers who had just returned from combat. In fact, my colleague and my close friend TAMMY DUCKWORTH, the other Senator from Illinois, was one of those casualties. I will never forget the rows of beds of young men and women with terrible injuries from roadside bombs and IEDs in the Iraqi war. Many of these brave servicemen are still grappling with the wounds of war, whether from traumatic brain injuries or PTSD they sustained in combat. That is the real cost of war—a war which this administration cannot explain the rationale for.

“When you go to war,” the President said, “some people will die.” Sadly, he is telling us the truth—the reality of war. We should remind the American people literally that this President promised that would never happen, and yet it has.

Americans are not asking for another foreign entanglement; they are asking for a President who puts the American people first in terms of the real challenges in the cost of living they face every day. President Trump has found billions of dollars—we are spending over \$1 billion a day in Iran to wage this war, but he cannot spare a penny to help Americans afford their groceries, mortgage, or health insurance. My constituents are already paying more on their gas and energy bills because of the chaos the President has created in the Middle East. That is likely to get worse.

There is no love lost between America and the Iranian regime. For decades, it has been a menace to the region and its own people. It is a worthwhile objective to prevent them from sponsoring terrorism and building nuclear weapons. But impulsive military attacks carry tremendous risk, uncertainty, and costs that may confront us and the region for months and years to come. That is a reality of war.

When I look back, there are three of us left in the Senate who voted against the invasion of Iraq. A recent article in the New York Times written by Carl Hulse asked Senators who voted for the war in Iraq whether they wish they had that vote to take over. Many of them said they did. They wanted to vote, as 23 of us did, against the invasion of Iraq.

As I said, and it is worth repeating, it is easier to get in a war than it is to get out. And in this circumstance, we don't have a clear mission or a clear commitment from our allies to stand by us.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, it has been a week—more than a week—since Donald Trump began his war with Iran without strategy, without an endgame, and with very little support from the American people.

Seven U.S. servicemembers have now been killed in the Middle East, one of them was killed in Saudi Arabia this weekend.

We also mourn the death of MAJ Sorffly Davius, a New York Police Department officer from Queens, who was deployed as a member of the 42nd Infantry Division of the U.S. National Guard. He died on Friday at a U.S. base in Kuwait. Major Davius was the rare kind of public servant, keeping New Yorkers safe here at home as a police officer and keeping Americans safe abroad as a soldier.

The Senate prays for all our servicemembers who have died since the start of the war. We pray for their families. And, as we pray, many of us also ask: One week into this conflict, what are the goals of this war? What does victory even look like?

We don't know. Donald Trump is making it up as he goes along. It is almost as if he wakes up each morning and decides right then and there what the strategy for the day is. Donald Trump and his administration owe the American people an explanation.

Secretary Rubio, Secretary Hegseth, and other senior officials must come to the Senate for public hearings and testify under oath as to why our troops are once again fighting and dying in the Middle East. The American people deserve answers. The Senate must hold public hearings—public hearings—with Cabinet Secretaries to get answers.

GAS PRICES

Madam President, now, on gas prices, here is one thing we do know: Donald Trump's war has sent gas prices skyrocketing through the roof. Brent crude rose above \$100 a barrel and spiked as high as \$120. Gasoline prices in the United States jumped more than 40 cents.

Let me say that again because we had a happy little fella up there or a girl—a fella it looks like—but he doesn't have to pay for the high price of gas on the pump as we do. So he is laughing.

But anyway, Brent crude rose above \$100 a barrel and spiked as high as \$120. Gasoline prices in the United States jumped more than 40 cents. When oil prices spike like this, it ripples across the entire economy. Airline tickets, shipping costs, and everyday goods go up, up, up in price. Inflation was already on the rise, and Trump's war just made it much, much worse.

That is why I am calling on President Trump to immediately release oil

from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help bring prices down. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve exists precisely for moments like this. If President Trump cared about easing pain at the pump, he would act to release these reserves now.

But instead of acting, Donald Trump is lost in a sea of delusional thinking. As gas prices rise, here is what Trump says: “If they rise, they rise.” Tough luck, America. He says they are “a very small price to pay” and that “only fools would think differently.”

The over 180 million fools who need or depend on gasoline, they don't care about paying more of their hard-earned dollars? They are fools? That is what Trump is saying to you, America—what contempt, what cluelessness.

It is as if America is being led to war by Marie Antoinette. He has no clue what it is like to struggle to pay for gas, to pay for the rent, to pay for groceries. He is in a bubble. Yes, he is a billionaire. He doesn't have to pay for these things. The average American does.

I will add this: The longer this war drags on, the greater the risk it spirals beyond control.

Over the weekend, there were reports that Trump is seriously considering putting boots on the ground. That would be Americans' worst nightmare: boots on the ground.

Once our forces land on the ground, the hard part is getting them out. What begins as targeted operations could turn into open-ended fighting and turn into mission creep. Weeks turn into months, which could turn into years.

Americans simply don't want that, and the brutal Iranian regime knows we don't want it either. So they won't be incentivized to negotiate.

IRAN

Madam President, the longer war drags on in the Middle East, the more likely it will be that civilian casualties mount as well.

This morning, public reporting said a preliminary U.S. assessment found that the United States was likely responsible for a deadly airstrike that obliterated a girls' elementary school and killed nearly 170 people, many children. This is heartbreaking, and it was likely avoidable.

When Presidents launch us into a war without a plan, the stakes multiply. Civilians and servicemembers get hurt, and conflicts spiral out of control.

Americans don't want us in this terrible, costly, unnecessary war. But one week in, they fear that Donald Trump has dragged us into a war that is just getting started.

SAVE ACT

Madam President, finally, on the SAVE Act, yesterday, Donald Trump posted that he will not sign any legislation—no matter how important—until Congress sends him the SAVE Act—and a beefed-up SAVE Act at that.