

and the rule of law. It almost seems that anyone who criticizes him is beyond the pale, is fake, is dishonest.

As the revelation about the Nixon case shows, there is still much we don't know about Judge Kavanaugh. The Senate and the American people deserve to know where Judge Kavanaugh stands on a host of issues. After all, the Supreme Court is a lifetime appointment with enormous power—the power to overrule the elected bodies of government.

Given that the hearing process for the Supreme Court has tended to be more of a public relations exercise for nominees rather than a legitimate examination of judicial philosophy, Judge Kavanaugh's papers might be the best and only way to judge what kind of a Justice he might be. My Republican friends understood this when it came to Justice Kagan, who had served in key positions in prior administrations, much like Judge Kavanaugh. They were then in the minority, as we are now, when Judge Kagan was nominated, but our Republican colleagues demanded the entire paper history of then-Solicitor General Kagan before moving forward with her nomination, and Democrats agreed.

In a joint letter to the director of the Clinton Library, the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee at the time—Senator LEAHY, the chairman, and Senator Jeff Sessions, now Attorney General, but then the ranking Republican on the committee—wrote that they expected “all records containing documents written by, edited by, prepared in whole or part by, under the supervision of, or at the direction of Elena Kagan, as well as documents referencing Elena Kagan by name, initials, or title, and documents received by or sent to Elena Kagan.”

A Democratic chairman and Republican Senator Sessions, the ranking member, asked for every single document of Elena Kagan's record. Why should such a standard apply to Justice Kagan but not to Judge Kavanaugh?

I have taken the liberty of editing the letter sent by Senators Sessions and LEAHY. It didn't take much work to make it directly applicable today. It is the same letter, same request, simply crossing out every time it mentions Kagan and putting in the name “Kavanaugh.” There was no change. It is the same standard.

I have already heard from my Republican colleagues, including Chairman GRASSLEY, that there is no reason to review Judge Kavanaugh's full record before proceeding with his nomination.

I have had enough of the two-facedness, the total hypocrisy on judges, where somehow our Republican colleagues say it is good one way when we have a Democratic President and the opposite should take effect when we have a Republican President. That is what they are doing with the records here first of Judge Kagan and now Judge Kavanaugh.

Well, I say to my Republican colleagues, what is good for Justice

Kagan—let's call it the Kagan standard—is good enough for Judge Kavanaugh—paraphrasing, of course, what is good for the goose is good for the gander.

The Senate's duty to advise and consent does not mean move as hastily as possible. For the benefit of this body, for the sake of consistency, and for the honor of this Chamber, I hope my Republican friends join Democrats in asking for and waiting for all the documents related to Judge Kavanaugh. The American people have a right to know what is there, and the Senate must have enough time to review the body of work before making an unalterable decision on a lifetime appointment to the Nation's highest Court.

TRUMP-PUTIN SUMMIT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Russia, a week ago today, President Trump met with President Putin in Helsinki, and with the world watching, failed to show an ounce of strength in defense of American interests.

What followed was an embarrassing week of insincere walk backs and mixed messages, culminating on Friday in a bizarre invitation for President Putin to visit the White House this fall—something the President's own Director of National Intelligence, Mr. Coats, was not made aware of. It is not hyperbolic to say that last week may have been one of the worst weeks in American foreign policy in recent memory.

In the face of these stunning events, what have my Republican colleagues done to rein in the President? I am sad to report, virtually nothing. In the full week since the Helsinki summit, Republicans failed to take meaningful action to hold the President accountable for his foreign policy blunders in Finland. Republicans have offered words of rebuke, statements, disappointed tweets, but they have not backed up any of those words with the force of action.

I have seen my colleagues shrug their shoulders as if there weren't anything the U.S. Senate could do to check this President, even though they feel in their hearts, I know, that he needs checking. I mentioned several ways the Senate could grapple with and push back a bit on what President Trump has done: bring in his national security team and translator to testify before Congress, particularly so we can tell what happened in that 2 hours when Putin and Trump were alone; pass legislation to protect the special counsel and legislation to harden our election infrastructure because we risk Russia's interference again; implement sanctions against Russia; demand that Russia hand over the 12 Russians indicted for election interference and more.

If my Republican friends were serious about doing something to redirect our posture toward Russia, we should have seen some movement by now on one or more of these things, but we are stuck

in the mud. Even though there is bipartisan condemnation for the President's behavior last week, the Senate has remained virtually silent on the matter because Republicans here are unwilling, maybe afraid, to confront the President, even though they know what he did was so wrong.

At the end of last week, the Republican majority blocked a bipartisan resolution—a modest one from Senators Flake and Coons, one a Republican, one a Democrat—that sought to hold Russia accountable. It didn't have many teeth, but still the Republicans objected.

Are my Republican friends ever willing to push back against this President, not just in words but in deeds, or are they too afraid of the political consequences? Are they willing to put country over party at this crucial time? It seems not, at least so far.

I know many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were deeply disturbed by the President's inexplicable behavior in Helsinki. I say to them, America needs you now. We need you to stand up, step up to the plate, and do something about it.

Frankly, if we don't do something real, President Trump—I know him—will conclude he doesn't need to change his behavior, and, as a result, Republicans will be complicit in enabling the President to continue down the disastrous course he has set.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert L. Wilkie, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I started my morning in Kansas City speaking to 4,000 veterans attending the Veterans of Foreign Wars 119th National Convention held in Kansas City.

My speech was a message to those Americans whom I hold in highest regard, our Nation's veterans, and especially those veterans who are helping other veterans. I wanted them to know, when they signed up to serve our country, they did not do so in support of any political party. Those who serve our Nation, and particularly those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, did not answer the call to support Republicans or Democrats, but they answered for a higher calling.