

Any possibility that Russia is playing a hand in killing American and Pennsylvania soldiers must be thoroughly investigated. President Trump's silence indicates not only that he doesn't care about Russian threats to national security, but apparently he doesn't care that American lives might be at risk because of Russian aggression. To date, the majority in the Senate has not taken appropriate action to hold this President accountable for his failure to act or investigate these serious allegations.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. President, despite these recent failures abroad, one of the biggest challenges we all face right now is the pressing threat to our democracy.

As Americans across the Nation are currently casting their ballots by way of voting early in person or voting by mail for the next President of the United States, we are seeing increasing reports of Russian efforts to interfere in our election.

The CIA has concluded that Vladimir Putin is likely directly involved in Russian efforts to promote disinformation, sow discord, and carry out cyber attacks on the United States. I cite for this the New York Times September 22, 2020, article.

Former Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, a former Republican Senator here from Indiana on two different occasions—he served his State twice in that capacity—wrote in an op-ed recently:

If we fail to take every conceivable effort to ensure the integrity of our election, the winners will not be Donald Trump or Joe Biden, Republicans or Democrats. The only winners will be Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Ali Khamenei.

Leaders, of course, of China and Iran. Despite clear evidence, President Trump continues to deny Russian misconduct, and he continues to contradict our intelligence community.

We should ask, what is the obligation of the Senate? I spent 4 years—as many people have—urging the President from afar, at least, to actively demonstrate to us that his love of country outweighs his affinity for Putin. At this point in time, I don't expect his behavior to change. But it is incumbent—in-cumbent—upon the U.S. Senate, as part of a coequal branch of government, to call out the President and to hold him accountable when he engages in these kinds of actions or inactions, as the case may be.

The Senate has taken some actions. This body has passed a number of substantive sanctions: the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act—so-called CAATSA—against Russia for its aggression in Ukraine and interference in the 2016 election. That was the right thing to do and an appropriate thing to do.

The Senate Intelligence Committee and other committees of jurisdiction have done important work documenting Russia's interference in the 2016 election, but that is not enough.

The work cannot stop there. Russia has continued, will continue, and will continue to succeed in undermining our national security if we allow them.

The silence of Senate Republicans on this issue of the President's total deference to Putin has become, in my judgment, complicity. Those who fail to stand up and loudly express their alarm are tacitly showing their approval. Their failure to take action is also its own danger to our democracy.

Instead of prioritizing the unprecedented public health and economic crisis that is in front of us, some Republican-led committees—not all but some—are prioritizing a partisan political investigation, the basis for which stems directly from a known Russian disinformation campaign.

In the face of intelligence reports showing that the Russians are once again seeking to influence this election, Senate Republicans have refused to pass a single piece of substantive election security legislation.

There is still time. I will give one example or one suggestion to the majority. The SAFE Act, which requires paper ballots in Federal elections and would authorize \$775 million in grants to help States secure their voting systems, passed the House 450 days ago, but Majority Leader McCONNELL would rather let this bill gather dust on his desk than take meaningful action to protect our democracy, to protect our election. The unwillingness to protect our elections from foreign interference is a dereliction of duty by the majority.

Finally, in conclusion, I call on my colleagues to answer the call of duty to protect our election, protect our democracy, and protect our national security against malign and persistent Russian influence and interference orchestrated by the man President Trump has never criticized.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

REMEMBERING AMBASSADOR RICHARD SCHIFTER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I mourn the loss of a tremendous champion for human rights and the State of Israel and one of my personal heroes and mentors, Ambassador Richard Schifter. Ambassador Schifter lived a truly remarkable life. After escaping Nazi-occupied Austria in 1938, he bravely returned to Europe just a few short years later as one of the U.S. Army's "Ritchie Boys", German-speaking officers trained in counterintelligence at Camp Ritchie in Maryland. While serving in Europe, he learned that all of his family had been killed in the Holocaust. At just over 20 years old, Ambassador Schifter had experienced more adversity than most of us see in a lifetime. Nevertheless, he spent the next seven decades demonstrating incredible

faith and courage as he strived to make the world a better place.

Ambassador Schifter was successful in this mission. After he graduated from Yale Law School, he went on to become an attorney, advocating for the rights of Native American Tribes facing discrimination at the hands of the U.S. Government. Under Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, he served as Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, U.S. Representative to the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Commission, and as Deputy U.S. Representative to the UN Security Council. Under President Clinton, he served as Special Assistant to the President on the staff of the National Security Council and as Special Advisor to the Secretary of State. As a diplomat and public servant, he fought against oppressive regimes around the world. He pressured the Soviet Union to release political prisoners, end the criminalization of dissent, and allow the emigration of Soviet Jews. After leaving the U.S. Government, Ambassador Schifter went on the lead the American Jewish International Relations Institute, where he fiercely defended the State of Israel and worked to ensure that other people would never suffer his family's fate under the Nazis. Until his last day, Ambassador Schifter fought to promote fairness and democracy and to protect the security and freedom of others.

I would be remiss if I failed to commemorate Ambassador Schifter's enormous impact on our home State of Maryland. Ambassador Schifter served for 20 years on the Maryland State Board of Education, leading both the Governor's Commission on Funding the Education of Handicapped Children and the Governor's Commission on Values Education. He was also the chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Committee. In all these roles, he worked to expand equality and opportunity for everyone in our State. Even as his professional responsibilities spanned the globe, Ambassador Schifter remained committed to building a brighter future for his neighbors.

Ambassador Schifter's passing is a staggering loss, but his legacy lives on and will serve as the true North Star for all of us who share his devotion to human rights, democracy, and decency. His parent's decision in 1938 to send their 15-year-old son to a new country, alone, saved not just his life, but also countless others on whose behalf Ambassador Schifter worked so indefatigably throughout his illustrious career. I extend my deepest condolences Ambassador Schifter's children and grandchildren and all those who were fortunate enough to call Ambassador Schifter a friend.