

emissions for the better part of a decade.

Unsurprisingly, our former colleague failed to secure a meeting with President Xi or his foreign minister. Perhaps, as I have discussed before, the CCP had already made that latter official disappear.

China is America's single greatest strategic adversary. The PRC is not inclined to do America or the West any favors. And political relations with Beijing have declined not because of insufficient economic ties but because of China's concerted efforts to intimidate its neighbors, spy on our communications, steal our technology, and undermine global free markets.

The sooner the Biden Administration accepts that reality, the sooner the United States can engage more deeply with allies and partners who share our interests in preserving the peace.

Russia's escalation against Ukraine has taught allies in Europe a valuable lesson about the dangers of economic overreliance. Views are changing across Europe as our allies take a new look at the nature of the dictatorship in Beijing and its friendship without limits with Moscow. The German foreign minister, for example, has publicly warned against replacing dependence on Russian gas with new economic dependence on the PRC.

Asian allies have long been concerned with the PRC's growing assertiveness. They understand that Russia is a Pacific nation with significant air and naval presence in the Far East.

Americans who focus single-mindedly on the Indo-Pacific would do well to consider Russia's own military power in that region. Just last month, the Russian and Chinese navies conducted a joint patrol off the coast of Alaska, the largest such operation in anyone's memory.

These revisionist powers are not going to go away. They will not be classified by economic envoys. Strategic competition will continue to test global interests and reach.

It is time to work more closely with friends and allies. It is time to invest more seriously in hard power and industrial capacity. It is time for the Biden administration to prioritize actions over words.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, the Biden administration announced yesterday that it is seeking new recruits in its war on affordable and reliable American energy to fill the ranks of a new program called American Climate Corps.

While the administration works overtime to freeze sensible development like energy pipelines, its latest initiative would, essentially, set up a taxpayer-funded pipeline for turning climate activists into climate bureaucrats.

Now, President Biden's nostalgia for FDR's New Deal is already well-docu-

mented. So setting aside the absurdity of Washington Democrats' fixation with the Green New Deal, it would be hard to imagine an economic moment less well-suited to a new Depression-era work program.

This isn't the early 1930s, when the American people were up against high unemployment and low inflation. In fact, what the Democrats' runaway spending has dumped on working families today is just the opposite. For 2 years now, we have historic inflation and a record labor shortage.

This is such a profoundly tone-deaf idea it couldn't even earn the support of the President's own party here in the Senate during votes on Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act last year. Not a single one of our colleagues joined Senator SANDERS in voting for his amendment to create a climate work project on the taxpayers' dime.

Apparently, that hasn't deterred President Biden or the leftwing activists behind the wheel of his administration's energy policies.

As working families struggle to afford gas, electricity, and groceries, the advice from wealthy blue State liberals is, apparently, to shell out for an expensive electric car and foot the bill for the so-called Climate Corps.

There is no Hoover Dam or Lincoln Tunnel on the other side of this nonsense spending, just Potemkin jobs and a new make-work program when there is plenty of work to go around.

Activists are calling it climate justice. But it doesn't sound like justice to the working families trying to get by President Biden's watch.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General, Gen. Randy A. George.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

NOMINATION OF GENERAL RANDY A. GEORGE

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about my dear friend and native Iowan, GEN Randy A. George, before we vote on his nomination to be the next Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

As I said in the Armed Services Committee, I believe General George is the right man for this critical job. General George grew up in Alden, IA, a town with just over 700 residents. He joined the Army straight out of high school and was later commissioned at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

General George is a decorated war fighter with extensive combat service, including in the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the war in Afghanistan.

He has been instrumental in leading our great Army, and I am excited to see him confirmed to be the Chief of Staff of the Army.

As an Army veteran myself, I have full confidence that he will continue to modernize the Army and maintain our highly trained and lethal force to fight and win our Nation's wars.

General George is a hard-working public servant who knows the needs of our soldiers and their families. He, too, is a great family man. And I would like to thank his wife and his West Point classmate Patty and their two children, Grant and Andy, for their selfless commitment and support over the years.

I firmly believe that General George's qualifications, record, and character—and, of course, his great home State of Iowa—make him the right nominee to serve in this important role.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON GEORGE NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the George nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Baldwin	Cardin	Duckworth
Barrasso	Carper	Durbin
Bennet	Casey	Ernst
Blackburn	Cassidy	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Collins	Fischer
Booker	Coons	Gillibrand
Boozman	Cornyn	Graham
Braun	Cortez Masto	Grassley
Britt	Cotton	Hagerty
Brown	Cramer	Hassan
Budd	Crapo	Hawley
Cantwell	Cruz	Heinrich
Capito	Daines	Hickenlooper