

than the rules on the books in blue States like New York and Delaware. Texas passed a law that switched off some one-time COVID exceptions, like keeping polls open in the middle of the night.

These mainstream laws brought a torrent—a torrent—of hysteria from the far left, from corporate America, Hollywood, and the corporate media rushed to condemn laws they hadn't even read. It was almost completely untethered from reality. One poll a few months back found that less than half of 1 percent of Americans said voting laws were the country's most important problem. More Americans actually believe current voting laws are too lax than believe they are too restrictive. But the far left bubble became fixated—fixated—on this nonissue.

The manufactured outrage just kept coming. At the peak of the crescendo a few months back, 48 of 50 Senate Democrats voted to break this institution—to break this institution—to ram through a 3-year-old voting takeover bill on a partisan basis. That is how close we came.

Now, fortunately, a bipartisan majority saved the Senate as an institution, and now, we are seeing the hard evidence that, as we all knew, the hysteria was never based on fact to begin with.

Georgia's primary election day is today. But we already know a lot, thanks to early voting figures.

And here was a Washington Post headline a few days ago, "Voting is surging in Georgia despite controversial new election law."

The story goes on:

[R]ecord-breaking turnout is undercutting predictions that the Georgia Election Integrity Act . . . would lead to a falloff in voting. By the end of Friday, the final day of early in-person voting, nearly 800,000 Georgians had cast ballots—more than three times—three times the number in 2018, and—

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higher even than in 2020, a presidential year.

Turnout is up despite the fact that fewer Georgians are availing themselves of the State's no-excuse mail-in voting. Georgians are getting back to in-person voting, a return to pre-pandemic norms, and doing so in huge, huge numbers.

The reporter quoted one 70-year-old Black voter who was stunned by the easiness of the voting process after all the disinformation that had been thrown around.

Here is what she said:

I had heard that they were going to try to deter us in any way possible . . . [so] [t]o go in there and vote as easily as I did . . . I was really thrown back.

Shame—shame—on the Democrats who pushed the Big Lie that a grand scheme was afoot to prevent millions of Americans from voting. It was never true. It was just to push their pre-existing policy agenda. The fake hysteria was just a pretext to push a sweeping national takeover of election laws that Democrats had already had on the shelf for a number of years.

Now the rhetoric is proving false right before our eyes. These common-sense Republican laws appear to be achieving just what the American people want. The American people want to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

This whole episode proves exactly why our democracy still needs its cooling saucer. This is exactly the reason why the U.S. Senate exists, so that one party cannot lose its head to a short-term fever and upend massive Federal laws on a partisan basis under false pretexts.

Thank goodness—thank goodness—a bipartisan majority stopped Democrats from destroying the Senate over this fake issue a few months back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it has become clear over the last few months that too much of the Republican Party has been taken over by MAGA Republicans, who are now dominating the party and Republicans in the Senate, moving the party away from things it has often stood for in the past.

The contrast has become clear: Democrats, for instance, want to codify a woman's freedom to make decisions about her own body into Federal law, but MAGA Republicans want to take away women's rights by pushing national abortion bans, jailing women and doctors for carrying out abortions, and even pushing bans with no exception for rape or incest.

In the wake of the Buffalo shooting, MAGA Republicans continue embracing unhinged conspiracy theories like the "great replacement," which has been a rallying cry for ultranationalists and White supremacists in Europe for years.

And all year long, while Democrats have been pushing solutions that will lower costs, MAGA Republicans and the chair of the Republican campaign arm openly support raising taxes on the poor and working families, while cheering on inflation as a "gold mine." And those were Senator SCOTT's words, not mine. He called inflation a gold mine. Imagine.

MAGA Republicans are showing Americans exactly who they are. In an amazing happening this weekend, the Conservative Political Action Conference, the largest conservative organization in America, held their conference in Hungary and welcomed one of Europe's most notorious proponents of "replacement theory," Viktor Orban, as their keynote speaker.

Again, the Conservative Political Action Conference, a very important organization in the new Republican MAGA party, had Viktor Orban as their keynote speaker, an autocrat, who has whittled away democracy in Hungary.

It is sickening—sickening—to see that 2 weeks after the shooting in Buffalo, Republicans as prominent as Donald Trump and Tucker Carlson, spoke at the same event as one of Europe's most prominent White nationalists and authoritarians. It is a scary and otherworldly turn for one of America's two parties to take.

I know not all Republicans embrace the views of MAGA Republicans. I know many of them support women's rights and embrace diversity and reject conspiracies like "White replacement."

I urge these Republicans in the Senate and the country to repudiate the MAGA wing taking over the GOP. I invite the voters to support Democratic candidates as a protest against extremism so we as a nation can halt the dangerous rise of the hard right.

This week, all of us in the Senate will have a chance to take a stand against extremism by voting to begin debate on the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act.

For the information of all, I will take the first procedural step on this legislation later today, and Members can expect to vote on Thursday on this bill that will crack down on domestic terrorism and extremism.

As far as legislation goes, this bill is as much of a no-brainer as it comes. Two years ago, when Donald Trump was President, the House passed this bill unanimously. Every single Republican was for the bill. But in a sign of how radicalized the GOP has become, nearly every single House Republican opposed it last week, despite one Morning Consult poll that showed that a majority of Republicans and Republican voters support these common-sense measures.

Let me say it again. According to one Morning Consult poll, a majority of Republican voters support cracking down on domestic terrorism. Yet, nevertheless, every single House Republican voted against this bill last week.

If you wanted some proof that the MAGA wing of the Republican Party is taking over the whole party, there it is.

I hope that, given everything happening across the country right now, Senate Republicans will act differently and support this bill.

Let me be clear, Democrats' goal is to pass this bill, just as it is with all bills we bring to the Senate floor. But if Republicans keep going down their extremist, obstructionist path, then this vote will still allow the American people to hold their elected representatives accountable.

Not long ago, views like "replacement theory" were relegated to the fringes of American society, shared primarily by twisted minds on online message boards. But today, White supremacy, which has been with us for decades

and centuries, is now out in the open, and proponents speak about it unabashedly and unashamedly.

Many were shocked in 2017, when, out in the open, thousands of White supremacists marched at the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville and chanted: “You will not replace us.”

It was out in the open on January 6, as insurrectionists waved Confederate flags through the hallways of this Capitol—the first time that ever occurred in American history.

It is out in the open every time Donald Trump holds a MAGA rally and blames undocumented immigrants for stealing the 2020 election.

And it is out in the open on cable news networks like FOX, where Tucker Carlson has spread “replacement theory” in over 400 episodes, and other commentators join in.

To be sure, the extremism of MAGA Republicans is hardly limited to their embrace of ridiculous conspiracy theories. Across the country, the hard right is also hell-bent on turning back the clock on women’s rights by 100 years, pushing restrictions on abortions that are wildly outside the mainstream.

Whether it is a national ban on abortions, which Leader McCONNELL acknowledges is possible if Republicans win the Senate, or the prosecution of women who pursue abortions, or even banning businesses that help employees access abortions out of State, MAGA Republicans are openly championing restrictions that would have been career-enders just a few years ago but are now part of GOP canon. We cannot ignore who suffers most under these radical restrictions: women of color, low-income families, families who live in deeply gerrymandered States, where their views have all been but silenced.

This is what MAGA Republicans clamor for: a world ruled by conspiracy theories, national abortion bans, and the greatest curtailing of individual rights in 50 years; a world where immigrants and communities of color are considered “replacers”; where women are considered second-class citizens and are told what to do with their bodies; where White supremacy is tolerated or even embraced; and where our democracy erodes in favor of autocracy.

Imagine again Orban, the leading autocrat of Europe, being the lead speaker at CPAC, with President Trump and other major Republicans participating. Who would think we would see that day? Who would think?

We cannot let these views become accepted or even become the norm in the United States. This week, we can take one step of many in helping silence the voices of White supremacy, the voices of domestic terrorism.

So I implore my Republican colleagues: If you reject the dangers of White supremacy and views like “White replacement,” you should vote in favor of moving forward to begin debate on this domestic terrorism bill.

This is a test. This is about accountability. Republican Senators, do you reject the views of MAGA Republicans? Do you reject White supremacy and “replacement theory”?

Taking a stand against domestic terrorism and White supremacy should be the easiest thing in the world. If Republicans can’t join us on something as simple as that, Americans will see, with even greater clarity, how radical the GOP has become under Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT CHARLES GARRIGUS

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, what defines an American soldier? Is it courage under fire? Is it physical strength? Is it the great victories on the battlefield? No. I think it is something else. Above all, it is sacrifice. It is the selflessness to surrender one’s life so that a set of values will endure not only for the living but for generations to come. It is the faith that the future of this great Nation is more important than the life of any one of its citizens; that the cause of liberty is greater than any individual.

Be that as it may, every fallen hero must be remembered. Every individual who makes the ultimate sacrifice must be honored. That is why, in the spring every year, we decorate their graves with flowers and the flag they fought for. Those headstones made of marble or granite are often indistinguishable from a distance. Fittingly, their sacrifice was the same no matter how fabled or forgotten the battle, no matter in victory or defeat; and though we rightly revere our glorious triumphs—the trenches of Yorktown, the hills of Gettysburg, the fields of the Marne, the beaches of Normandy—it is often in America’s darkest hours, in the face of great disaster, when we see the virtues of America’s warriors most clearly.

So it was with SGT Charles Garrigus, a farm boy from the town of Francisco in Southern Indiana.

In growing up during the Depression, he developed a passion and skill for motors, of driving trucks and tractors across the Hoosier countryside. It was why he was drawn to the U.S. Army; why, after his discharge at the end of World War II, he reenlisted, serving as a motor pool sergeant in Japan. Sergeant Garrigus was scheduled to return to Indiana on June 26, 1950. One day before that, on the 25th, the Korean war began, and so he again answered the call.

After the initial setbacks, with the North Korean People’s Army pushing U.S. forces south, by the end of the summer, the North Koreans were in retreat, and Americans were advancing north, up the peninsula. The end of the war was in sight.

GEN Douglas MacArthur divided his forces. The Eighth Army went from Seoul to Pyongyang. From there, it would link with Ten Corps. Sergeant Garrigus’s force, the 7th Army Divi-

sion, 32nd Regiment, was assigned to guard the Ten Corps’ flank. Once connected, they would march toward the Chinese frontier, reunite Korea, and end the war. The soldiers might be home for Christmas.

Then came the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, where 100,000 Chinese soldiers attacked. The Americans, isolated and spread out across the Chosin Reservoir, were surrounded; they were trapped. It was an unmitigated disaster—one of the worst in the history of America’s military. The fighting continued for two more nights before Sergeant Garrigus’s regiment consolidated with another larger unit, led by COL Allan MacLean.

On the morning of the 29th, their 60-vehicle convoy made its way to MacLean’s perimeter. The Chinese fire was so heavy, though, that two trucks filled with supplies were left on the opposite of the bridge leading to MacLean’s men. When Sergeant Garrigus looked across that bridge and saw Chinese soldiers approaching the vehicles, he dashed, on foot, across the bridge, reached the first van, and drove it back across the ice-covered bridge. Then he got out, ran back across the bridge again, jumped in the second truck, and drove that one across American lines too. Just as he made it over, the engine stalled out, but his fellow soldiers roared. It was a shot of hope in a desperate hour.

After 80 hours of attacks, the situation had grown so dire that, on the morning of the 30th, the Americans determined to break out and drive over mountain roads to the safety of the Marine base at Hagaru-ri, at the southern end of the reservoir. They loaded what rations and supplies they had left, along with the wounded, into 35 trucks and jeeps, and prepared to set out across the narrow mountain roads that led to the marines.

Before they departed, Chinese forces commandeered the Americans’ defensive machinegun posts. Sergeant Garrigus rallied several other soldiers; fought off the Chinese; and retook the weapons, turning them on the enemy, freeing up the column of vehicles to depart. The way was treacherous, along rutted, ice-covered roads. The formation was disorganized, scattered by steady Chinese gunfire.

With Sergeant Garrigus at its head, the convoy finally drew near the Marine base at Hagaru-ri. What was once a 35-vehicle convoy was now 15. The trucks and jeeps were full of bullet holes, but the final run was at hand. With mortar blasts exploding along its sides, Sergeant Garrigus guided the convoy forward. Hagaru-ri was 5 miles away, just in reach. Then a tremendous blast of machineguns erupted. The lead vehicle veered off the road and smashed into a ditch. Sergeant Garrigus lay dead behind the wheel. The entire convoy ground to a halt. The surviving soldiers were at the mercy of the Chinese.

SGT Charles Garrigus never returned home to Indiana. His name is among