

Questions submitted to Senators McConnell and Paul on August 25, 2017

1. Our foreign policy is in free fall, and we are besieged and threatened from several quarters. Secretary of State Tillerson has been behind the curve on every foreign policy turn of the last six months, and most key deputies have not been replaced." ***What does Senator Paul plan to do to reverse the collapse of the State Department since this administration began by cutting its budget 30 per cent and firing over 2300 middle and top level officials who have not been replaced?***
2. Trump has proven himself to be a loose cannon who tweets whatever comes to mind, and that is disorienting in a world in which other world leaders attempt to dissect the meaning of his tweets to decide their actions or reactions to often radical changes in US policies and positions. This is particularly disconcerting with regard to North Korea. ***What does Se. Paul plan to do to prevent Trump from initiating a major conflict with North Korea by his "tweet tensions" in place of actual diplomacy?***
3. Trump has indicated he wants to end the Iran nuclear deal, even creating a group to justify this action although there is no evidence Iran has not been complying with the nuclear agreement. This has escalated Iran's threat to start up its nuclear program again. ***Does Senator Paul have any plan(s) to avoid Trump's effort to unravel years of diplomatic work that could easily put us right back at square one with Iran and its nuclear program?***
4. Diplomacy represents a critical component of US power. It's projection of "soft power" as a counter to "hard power" by the Dept. of Defense, serves as a moderating aspect of overall US foreign policy. Thus, major reductions in State Department preparedness creates an imbalance in how US addresses world issues and deals with foreign powers. Moreover, the cost of diplomacy is far, far less than the cost of military intervention. ***What efforts is Sen. Paul taking to bring some balance back to how the US employs its soft power as effectively as its hard power to deal with international issues and reverse the present dismantling of our Department of State?"***