

Graham to O'Reilly: Iran was 'weeks away' from nukes

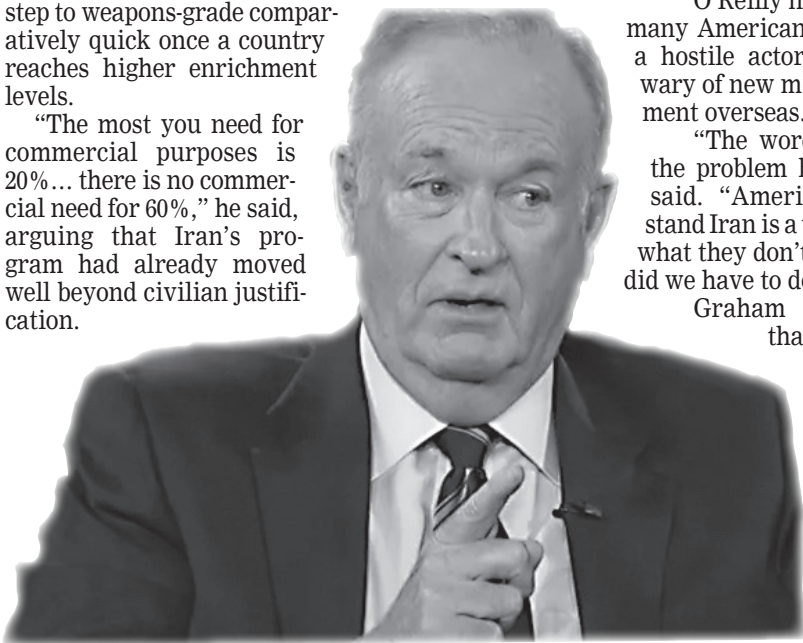
Senate Armed Services Committee member Sen. Lindsey Graham said Iran was just "two weeks" away from producing nuclear weapons-grade material capable of fueling multiple bombs...an "imminent" threat he argues left the United States little choice but to act militarily.

In an interview with Bill O'Reilly on O'Reilly's new "We'll Do It Live" Youtube program, Graham said Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium had already reached levels that placed it on the threshold of a nuclear breakout. He pointed specifically to enrichment levels, measured by the percentage of uranium-235 in the material, noting that uranium enriched to 60%, already far beyond civilian energy needs and close to weapons-grade, can be further refined to 90%, the level typically required for nuclear weapons, in a relatively short period of time.

"The difference between 60 and 90 is two weeks... you can blend 60 to 90 literally in two weeks," Graham said.

He emphasized that most of the technical effort in uranium enrichment occurs in earlier stages, making the final step to weapons-grade comparatively quick once a country reaches higher enrichment levels.

"The most you need for commercial purposes is 20%... there is no commercial need for 60%," he said, arguing that Iran's program had already moved well beyond civilian justification.



REVIEW COMMENTARY



DANE HICKS, REVIEW PUBLISHER

Graham added that Iran possessed enough material to rapidly assemble multiple weapons if it chose to proceed.

"They had enough 60% uranium... to make 10 bombs... within two weeks," he said.

Whether Iran's nuclear progress constituted an immediate threat has become a central issue in Washington and among the public, particularly as the United States weighs the risks of further escalation.

O'Reilly noted that while many Americans view Iran as a hostile actor, they remain wary of new military involvement overseas.

"The word imminent is the problem here," O'Reilly said. "Americans... understand Iran is a terror nation... what they don't understand is did we have to do this now?"

Graham acknowledged that past conflicts have shaped public skepticism. "Vietnam has cast a great shadow... Iraq and

Afghanistan have cast a long shadow," he said. "Nobody wants to go down that road again."

Still, he argued that allowing Iran to reach the nuclear threshold would pose a far greater risk.

"We're not going to sit on the sidelines and watch Iran get a nuclear weapon," he said.

When pressed on whether the intelligence clearly supported the urgency he described, Graham was unequivocal.

"If that's not imminent, what would be?" he said.

A key component of Graham's warning is not just that Iran could build a nuclear weapon, but how it might be used.

O'Reilly suggested Iran would likely avoid direct retaliation and instead rely on allied groups.

"They'd do it, but they'd hand it off to somebody," O'Reilly said.

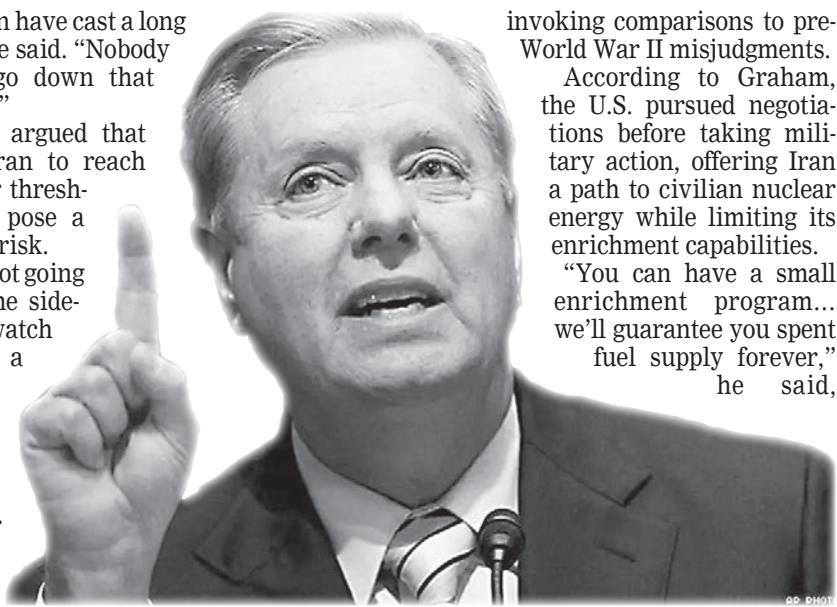
Graham agreed. "They would use it through a proxy," he said.

He pointed to Iran's long-standing support for militant organizations across the Middle East as evidence of that strategy.

"There is no Hezbollah without Iran... Hamas couldn't exist one day... the Houthis, all funded by Iran," he said.

Graham also framed Iran's leadership as ideologically driven, comparing the threat to historical precedents.

"Do you believe the guy on the other side actually wants peaceful nuclear power? Or does he actually want a bomb?" he said,



invoking comparisons to pre-World War II misjudgments.

According to Graham, the U.S. pursued negotiations before taking military action, offering Iran a path to civilian nuclear energy while limiting its enrichment capabilities.

"You can have a small enrichment program... we'll guarantee you spent fuel supply forever," he said,

describing the proposal.

But Iran rejected the offer, he said. "They turned it all down... because they don't want a nuclear power program, they want the capability to make a weapon," Graham said.

He also claimed Iranian officials revealed details about their enrichment levels during negotiations, which he interpreted as an attempt at leverage.

"They told us... we have 460 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60 percent," he said.

Graham argued that disclosure underscored how close Iran was to weapons capability.

"They thought... we're this close to a nuclear weapon. What are you going to do about it?" he said.

Graham credited Donald Trump with acting decisively to halt Iran's progress before it could reach weapons-grade enrichment.

"He blew the crap out of their enrichment capabilities so they couldn't go to

SEE HICKS ON PAGE 7

More than phones, session could be greatest ever

As the legislative session begins to wind down, this could possibly be one of the most consequential sessions in recent memory or be the biggest letdown in the past 25 years.

There are some victories so far, and most recently it has to be noted that the bipartisan passage of removing cell phones from classrooms was a monumental success.

My phone tells me how much time I average using the phone, and I am always shocked to see just how much I am on it. If I had access to a phone during school, I know that time would have been even higher.

Having access to a phone is the same as having access to a Nintendo, or an instant cheat sheet, or a communication device, all of which are counterproductive to the process of learning.

Learning requires focus on data and how it is applied, and anything that distracts from that focus will lower the bar on academic absorption. While I was a pretty good student, my education would have suffered if I had access to a modern cell phone. There is a time for socializing and a time for study, and teenagers are more focused on the former rather than the latter without understanding the long-term consequences of that decision.

We had texting, but it was in the form of writing notes and passing them between classes, not ongoing conver-

KANSAS COMMENTARY



EARL WATT, THE LEADER & TIMES

sations during class. And if a teacher caught you reading your note in class, it got shared with the entire class. Could you imagine the outrage today if a teacher confiscated a student's phone and read the text message string?

I have been surprised by the number of parents who are upset that they cannot text their child during the school day with the new law. That speaks volumes of the differences of my generation and the contemporaries. We didn't want to be tethered to our parents throughout the day. We matured socially by having to speak to our instructors one on one. We had to make our own case when facing disciplinary action. The education system wasn't designed around our feelings. It was designed around expanding our knowledge base. It was about teaching us critical thinking skills to apply to the

challenges we would face in life.

Parents believing they need instant connection with their children at any given time is not healthy. It creates a dependency on both sides when the goal is to establish the ability to function independently.

And what if an emergency occurs? Will a parent come charging into the school to save their child in a crisis? Of course not. Any attempt to do so would only put more people at risk. And the student, if such a situation were to occur, needs to be focused on their immediate surroundings, not seeking counsel on a phone.

Statistics have consistently shown where digital devices have been banned, teacher satisfaction improves, discipline issues decline and academic performance improves.

I was stunned to see educational leaders calling on Gov. Laura Kelly to veto the measure. To her credit, she signed the bill, even though there would have been enough votes to override a veto should she do so.

This is a big step forward for the Kansas Legislature with credit to Senate Majority Leader Ty Masterson and Speaker of the House Dan Hawkins.

But the remaining work of protecting taxpayers from out-of-control local

SEE WATT ON PAGE X

At Hormuz, Iran challenges a bedrock of U.S. power

The reason why we have the Fifth Fleet, one of the most awesome naval forces ever assembled in the history of mankind, is to protect the sea lanes in the Middle East.

That the Strait of Hormuz is now effectively closed is not just a blow to the global economy and a key point of leverage for the Iranian regime, it is an assault against one of the foundations of American power.

Guarding the safe passage of commerce has been a core Anglo-American commitment for a couple of centuries, with the baton of naval leadership passing from the British to the United States around the time of World War II.

British naval preeminence in the 19th century contributed to the creation of the modern world by enabling relatively safe and inexpensive global commerce. We have done the same in the post-World War II era.

This has never been an entirely altruistic endeavor, since -- as two commercially oriented nations heavily involved in international trade -- the U.K. and the U.S. benefited mightily from the arrangements guaranteed by their warships. But so did everyone else.

Just consider the global pain from the current effective closure of the strait, which is being felt at the pump in the U.S. and threatens to hammer Europe and countries throughout Asia. Not

NATIONAL COMMENTARY



RICH LOWRY, King Features Syndicate

just oil, but aluminum, fertilizer and any number of other products are being affected. If shipping in the strait remains as constrained as it is now for months rather than weeks, the economic damage could become intolerable.

Iran is the equivalent of a piratical Barbary state that is managing to undermine a defining element of American geopolitical strategy, despite the beating that it is taking otherwise. We have two carrier strike groups in the region, representing alone more firepower than many nations can muster, and the Iranians have some missiles, drones and mines -- and yet, they've effectively closed the strait and we, for now, can't reopen it.

This is a stark demonstration of asymmetrical power, and the longer it goes on, the more it will look like a national

humiliation. There's no one who is going to bail us out because we have a world-class navy, whereas our allies don't -- even if they wanted to help.

Trump would like to muster an international force to reopen the strait, but Germany has rebuffed him, and the Japanese and Australians aren't interested. France is putting together a force -- to deploy after the end of hostilities. Imagine if that had been our attitude about the Battle of Belleau Wood. The fact of the matter, though, is that allied countries aren't going to think it's possible to reopen the strait if we haven't managed to do it on our own.

Trump's two basic options are to seek some unsatisfactory accommodation with the Iranians that ends in a ceasefire -- with the Iranians having demonstrated their de facto control of one of the most consequential waterways in the world -- or to break their grip on the strait by force of arms, perhaps up to and including the deployment of ground forces to secure the shores of the strait.

Trump seems inclined to bludgeon the strait free of Iranian control. U.S. officials say we could begin naval escorts in a matter of weeks, and they worked during the Tanker War between Iran and Iraq in the 1980s.

The great 19th-century naval strate-

SEE LOWRY ON PAGE 7

The Anderson County Review's

PHONE FORUM

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Watching the liars and cheaters in the Democrat party continue to lie and cheat about voter ID. Yes, I'm talking to you Sharice Davids. Is it any wonder the party that let 20 million illegal immigrants into the country are fighting voter ID? And if that's not enough their refusing to fund the Department of Homeland Security. The Dems for all practical purposes do not represent their constituents or American citizens, they just represent a power group who are dead set on killing our country. Shame on them. When the American voters finally wake up, these anti-Americans will soon suffer the consequences of their actions.

Democrats are more afraid of Trump being successful than they are of the Ayatollah having a nuclear bomb. Think about that.

Please, please, please, stop letting your dog go to the bathroom in my yard. I might have a big yard and you might love walking your dog but bring a bag with you and pick it up. I'm tired of picking up after your dog. Thank you.

I would love for Sharice Davids to come to Anderson County and explain to voters and taxpayers here why she disagrees with 80 percent of Republicans and Democrats nationwide who say we should have proof of citizenship to vote in federal elections. Thank you.

For those of you wondering, my New Year's resolution was to try not to cuss and to watch my language better. I did great until March when I started driving down these ungodly rough roads. Can't even stay in the fricking seat without needing a helmet to keep from knocking yourself out. April 1 is when I will be starting my new New Year's resolution. Don't let that date fool you, with this worthless county's track record of fixing potholes.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Lovers of freedom, anxious for the fray.
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