Trump threatens to bomb Iran's Pickaxe Mountain as Democrats further back off demands to cut war funding

Andre Damon
27 November 2026

US President Donald Trump threatened on Thursday to resume the bombing of Iran with a new threat against Pickaxe Mountain, a fortified underground site near Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment plant.

"If we did anything, we would hit Pickaxe," Trump told reporters at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. "I mean, we can tell them because they can't do anything about it. We would absolutely hit Pickaxe Mountain."

Trump said in a Thanksgiving call with US troops earlier on Thursday, "We're getting stronger. We sent an extra aircraft carrier there. We're loaded up."

The USS Theodore Roosevelt, the third US aircraft carrier sent to the Middle East, arrived in mid-November and joined the George H.W. Bush and the George Washington. The Navy counted 13 destroyers and two cruisers with the three carriers in the Arabian Sea, and ships carrying about 2,000 Marines were following.

On Thursday, the US military attacked the Palau-flagged commercial ship Pacific Archer in the Gulf of Oman, firing from an aircraft into its stern and disabling its engines after the ship left the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. The US military has by its own count disabled six ships and turned back 158 in its blockade of Iran's ports.

Israel threatened to attack Iran on its own. Israeli military spokesman Effie Defrin told Israel's public broadcaster Kan on Thursday, "We ... are ready to strike with force at any moment, including on our own, without the Americans."

Trump has been emboldened, as the Democrats, whose votes are needed to pass a new continuing resolution, retreat from their post-election pledges to use it to cut off funding for the war.

The Democrats won the House and the Senate in the November 3 elections and will take control on January 3. Funding for the federal government runs out on December 11, when the current continuing resolution expires. A new one requires 60 of the Senate's 100 votes. The Republicans hold 53 seats, so no funding bill can pass without Democratic votes.

The Pentagon has drawn its money since October 1 from the current continuing resolution, which 42 Senate Democrats voted for on August 8 and 176 House Democrats voted for on September 1. Among the senators who voted for it were Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, Chris Coons of Delaware and Jack Reed of Rhode Island.

On the Sunday television programs on November 22, leading Democrats made clear that they do not intend to let the deadline lead to a shutdown, as the WSWS reported. Representative Jim Himes of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on *Fox News Sunday*, "My hope is that there is no shutdown and my hope is that we don't use the shutdown as leverage to end the war."

On NBC's *Meet the Press*, Van Hollen said, "I'm never in favor of shutting down the government."

Democrats have made further statements backing off from their earlier threats to use the power of the purse to stop the war.

Democratic Senator Coons, the top Democrat on the subcommittee that funds the Pentagon, told the *Washington Sun*, in a report published Monday, "Ending the war with Iran, which is what a majority of the American people want us to do, is not as simple as pushing a button that says 'End War Now.'"

"We have to think through where we want the

© World Socialist Web Site

regional security situation to end up," Coons said. "There are and will be American troops in the region. There are and will be critical economic interests in the region." That is, there are critical interests for American imperialism that will dictate what the Democrats do.

Reporters asked Van Hollen if a funding cutoff would also stop the Navy from protecting merchant ships in the Strait of Hormuz. "Well, no," Van Hollen replied. "There's a distinction between a blockade, which is an act of war, and making sure you have right-of-passage. These are all issues that we're looking at right now."

Democratic Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said restrictions on the war could lead Iran to fight on. "The dilemma is we have to give an incentive, strongly, for the administration to rapidly negotiate an end to the fighting and to stabilize the situation," Reed said. "We don't want to give an incentive to the Iranians to continue operations like that."

Democratic Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia told the *Washington Sun* that he would entertain more military spending, including money to replenish depleted munitions stockpiles. He said he was open to funding a portion of the $350 billion in new Pentagon money the White House is seeking, as part of a deal to avert a shutdown. "Let's sit at the table and talk about what you want and what we want, and can we find a path forward?" Kaine said.

The *Washington Post* reported on November 23, under the headline "Senate GOP leaders signal openness to cutting off Iran war funding as shutdown inches closer," that "Senate Republicans hoping to avoid a government shutdown are considering a deal with Democrats that would cut off funding for the Iran war."

In reality, the deal would give the Pentagon money to restock the munitions used up in the war in exchange for a restriction that leaves the war machine in place. According to Kaine, the proposal would bar funding for the war with exceptions for the "defense of U.S. troops." Republican Senator John Hoeven set the terms: "It can't be something that would hurt our ability to complete the conflict on our terms, not Iran's."

Refusing to use the instrument they have, a vote against any funding bill that continues to pay for the war, the Democrats are offering a token restriction while moving toward the administration's demands for more military money. "I think there's a pretty wide recognition on both sides of the aisle that some of the munitions replacement money is needed pretty soon," Kaine told Fox News.

The Democrats' sophistical arguments for repudiating their mandate were echoed by Brian Finucane of the International Crisis Group, a former State Department lawyer, who told the *Sun*, "Congress' tools in this space are limited and blunt, and a funding cutoff is a blunt instrument."

American imperialism has suffered a political debacle in the war, and the Democrats cannot accept any setback for US imperialism in the Middle East. The United States and Israel have failed in nearly nine months of war to subjugate Iran, and voters repudiated the war in the November 3 elections.

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wrote on November 17 that the war "is going to end with Iran more dominant than ever over its neighbors." Friedman advised, "Democrats should do nothing to weaken U.S. leverage on the Iranians."

The Democrats share the aim of the war, the subjugation of Iran to US domination. The Democrats are preparing to give Trump the money to carry out his threats, in defiance of the clear popular sentiment expressed in the election.

To contact the WSWS and the Socialist Equality Party visit:

wsws.org/contact

© World Socialist Web Site