

There are currently 129 judicial nominees waiting to be confirmed by this Senate. It is unfortunate that when there are such highly qualified nominees as Judge Chin, they cannot be quickly voted on so that they may begin to handle the many critically important cases that are currently pending in our Federal courts.

In conclusion, Judge Denny Chin possesses the judicial temperament, breadth of legal knowledge, and commitment to justice, civil rights, and the rule of law necessary for this appointment. He is well qualified, and I am confident that he would make an outstanding judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support his confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Denny Chin, of New York, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit?

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Akaka	Ensign	Menendez
Alexander	Enzi	Merkley
Barrasso	Feingold	Mikulski
Baucus	Feinstein	Murkowski
Bayh	Franken	Murray
Begich	Gillibrand	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Grassley	Pryor
Bingaman	Gregg	Reed
Bond	Hagan	Reid
Boxer	Harkin	Risch
Brown (MA)	Hatch	Roberts
Brown (OH)	Hutchison	Rockefeller
Brownback	Inhofe	Sanders
Bunning	Inouye	Schumer
Burr	Isakson	Sessions
Burris	Johanns	Shaheen
Byrd	Johnson	Shelby
Cantwell	Kerry	Snowe
Cardin	Klobuchar	Specter
Carper	Kohl	Stabenow
Casey	Kyl	Tester
Chambliss	Landrieu	Thune
Coburn	Lautenberg	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Collins	LeMieux	Vitter
Conrad	Levin	Voinovich
Corker	Lieberman	Warner
Cornyn	Lincoln	Webb
Crapo	Lugar	Whitehouse
Dodd	McCain	Wicker
Dorgan	McCaskill	Wyden
Durbin	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—2

DeMint Kaufman

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes each.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

PROHIBITING A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN 2011

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, over the years, Members of Congress have had a lot of perks, but one of them stands out; that is, the ability to raise their own pay. Not many Americans have the power to give themselves a raise whenever they want, no matter how they are performing. To make it worse, Members do not even have to vote on this pay raise. Congress has set up a system whereby every year Members automatically get a pay raise. No one has to lift a finger.

I do not take these pay raises, and I have been fighting for years to pass my bill to end this cozy system. Thanks to the majority leader, we took an important step last year when the Senate passed legislation to end automatic annual pay raises for Members of Congress. Unfortunately, the leadership of the other body has, so far, refused to take up that bill.

Well, I am going to keep fighting to pass it, but there is another step we can take in the meantime; that is, to make sure we do not get a pay raise next year. We already enacted legislation to block a pay raise this year, and now we have to do the same thing for 2011. With so many Americans looking for jobs and trying to figure out how to pay their bills, now is no time to give ourselves a taxpayer-funded \$1,600 pay increase.

I have a bill to block the scheduled 2011 pay raise.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators BURR, VITTER, BENNET, LINCOLN, GRASSLEY, MCCASKILL, BEGICH, and MCCAIN all be added as cosponsors to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I also ask unanimous consent that Senator WHITEHOUSE be added as a cosponsor to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consider-

ation of S. 3244, a bill to prohibit a cost-of-living adjustment for Members of Congress in 2011; that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask the Senator to add me as a cosponsor.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, be added as a cosponsor to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I renew my request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3244) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3244

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NO COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT IN PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2011.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I thank the Chair, and I will be urging the other body to pass this bill as soon as possible and send it to the President. I will keep fighting so that in the future the burden will be on those who want a pay raise—not on those who want to block one—to pass legislation.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I believe the Senator from Vermont has a brief statement.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I just wish to make a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I thank my dear friend, the senior Senator from Missouri.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 780, 781, 795, 796, 797, 798, 816, 817, 818, 819, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Coast Guard, Foreign Service, and NOAA; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; any statements relating to the nominations be printed

in the RECORD; the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

William N. Nettles, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years.

Wifredo A. Ferrer, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

David A. Capp, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of four years.

Anne M. Tompkins, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Kelly McDade Nesbit, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Peter Christopher Munoz, of Michigan, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Michigan for the term of four years.

Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York for the term of four years.

Noel Culver March, of Maine, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine for the term of four years.

George White, of Mississippi, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

Brian Todd Underwood, of Idaho, to be United States Marshal for the District of Idaho for the term of four years.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE COAST GUARD

PN1489 COAST GUARD nominations (6) beginning JOANN F. BURDIAN, and ending DAWN N. PREBULA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 24, 2010.

PN1556 COAST GUARD nominations (4) beginning Karen R. Anderson, and ending Steven M. Long, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2010.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1404 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (8) beginning Karen L. Zens, and ending Richard Steffens, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

PN1457 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION nominations (12) beginning SCOTT J. PRICE, and ending SARAH K. MROZEK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2010.

PN1458 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION nominations (9) beginning HEATHER L. MOE, and ending KURT S. KARPOV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2010.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I thank the Presiding Officer, and I thank the Senator from Missouri.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. The Senator from Missouri.

FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

Mr. BOND. Madam President, after the actions of some bad apples on Wall Street wreaked havoc on Main Street, America, there is no doubt we need financial reform to prevent another credit crisis.

It is disappointing that bipartisan consensus on a financial reform package was not reached in committee and instead the majority chose a go-it-alone approach. I hope this is a process Democrats truly want to be bipartisan because my constituents have some good ideas about how to enact real reform that will not stifle economic growth and activities.

I have told my good friend Senator DODD and others that I want to work with them to ensure the concerns I have heard from Missourians—a thousand miles away from Wall Street—are addressed as the process moves forward. I have heard from Missourians who want to end too big to fail, and I have heard from Missourians who want to stop taxpayer-funded bailouts and Missourians who are fearful of empowering government bureaucrats with the power to pick winners and losers. I have also heard from folks in Missouri who are key to job creation. They have well-founded concerns about some of the bill's unintended consequences.

This is a bill that could alter significantly the way Americans do business with the financial services industry, whether it be in the form of a home or auto loan, financing for college, credit for family farms, or much needed financing for small business. In the heartland, where I am from, we understand Wall Street provides critical financing, but we want to make sure they do it the right way.

A bipartisan and responsible bill should ensure that the failures that led to our financial collapse are properly addressed and that taxpayers never again are left footing the bill for the egregious mistakes of a few bad actors. It is time to stop taking a piecemeal and ad hoc approach to addressing the financial crisis. Burying our collective heads in the sand to avoid what needs to be done and simply hoping things will get better by throwing more money at these failed institutions and just believing they will get better on their own is unrealistic.

Americans are rightfully angry and frustrated about the trillions of dollars the government has committed to rescuing the financial industry, when so many of them are still struggling to find jobs, pay bills, and get the loans they need for cars, home, college, or to farm. They believe—and rightly so—that it is fundamentally unfair for the bad actors who caused the financial crisis to get bailed out while many of

them lost their jobs and their savings as a direct result of the irresponsibility of others.

We need a clear path to unwinding and ending these institutions that are too large and that pose systemic risk to the financial health of our market without doing so at the expense of the American taxpayer. No institution should ever again be considered too big to fail.

Today, I remind my colleagues that the government played a role in contributing to our financial and economic crisis. Government policies and actions to promote home ownership to buyers who could not afford to buy were irresponsible. That is why I am shocked that this bill does nothing to reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored enterprises that contributed to the financial meltdown by buying high-risk loans made to people who could not afford them. These irresponsible actions left the Federal Government with the risk and the American taxpayer with the bill to bail them out.

In addition to the cost to taxpayers, these irresponsible actions turned the American dream into the American nightmare for too many families who faced foreclosure and devastated entire neighborhoods and communities as property values diminished. Additionally, government failure to adequately regulate the financial system—specifically, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulators—allowed these institutions to take on too much risk, which was a major factor in the credit collapse. Collectively, these policies and actions have brought us to the economic crisis which has touched every American's life.

The current proposal ignores Fannie and Freddie, which were significant contributors to the crisis. That is a big mistake.

We need to be sure the proposals address the needs of Main Street America. Leaving them out would be another mistake.

Rather than focusing on the concerns of Wall Street, I have spent my time focusing on the concerns shared with me by my constituents back in Missouri. Missourians expect real reform but demand that Congress prevent an overreach of government that stifles businesses and kills jobs.

One specific area of concern is the creation of the so-called Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the CFPB. This new, massive government bureaucracy has unprecedented authority and enforcement powers to impose duplicative and costly mandates on any entities that extend credit. We are not talking about just big Wall Street banks but also the community banker, the local dentist, farm lender, or auto dealer. As a result, there will be no choice but to pass these added costs on to consumers—the very people this bill was designed to protect.

The only way to ensure the CFPB does not unintentionally hurt well-performing institutions that issue credit