

quickly if I can't get my friends to agree to do this, to have a vote on that. There are a few things we need to do.

I suggest to everyone I know how important this is to get finished. I don't need anybody to suggest we are not going to do that. We are. I wish to get it done this work period. In Senate time, that is pretty fast because we don't have the bill yet from the House. That is why I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I appreciate what the majority leader said. He is right about the importance of the legislation approved by majorities of both parties of the House of Representatives. I join him in hoping we can bring this to the floor as soon as possible with an agreement so we can consider it and try to provide some economic growth so people can go back to work in America.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 408, 441, 461, 462, 463, 464, 497, 509, 510, 528, 568, 569, 570, 571, 610, 612, and 613.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the nominations.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia.

David Nuffer, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Ronnie Abrams, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Rudolph Contreras, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Miranda Du, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Susie Morgan, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

David Campos Guaderrama, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Brian C. Wimes, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

Kristine Gerhard Baker, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

George Levi Russell, III, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

John J. Tharp, Jr., of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Jeffrey J. Helmick, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Mary Geiger Lewis, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Timothy S. Hillman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have cloture motions relative to each of these district court nominees at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for them to be filed now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The cloture motions having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motions:

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

### CLOTURE MOTIONS

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia.

Harry Reid, Joe Manchin III, Sherrod Brown, Tom Udall, Patty Murray, Mark Begich, Herb Kohl, Bill Nelson, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Joseph I. Lieberman, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Nuffer, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Harry Reid, Joe Manchin III, Sherrod Brown, Tom Udall, Patty Murray, Mark Begich, Herb Kohl, Bill Nelson, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Joseph I. Lieberman, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Ronnie Abrams, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennett, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Rudolph Contreras, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Miranda Du, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Susie Morgan, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of David Campos Guaderrama, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brian C. Wimes, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kristine Gerhard Baker, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of George Levi Russell, III, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mark R. Warner, Barbara A. Mikulski, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John J. Tharp, Jr., of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Mark R. Warner, Herb Kohl, Mark Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P.

Casey, Jr., Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jeffrey J. Helmick, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Dianne Feinstein, Charles E. Schumer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Robert Menendez, Amy Klobuchar, Herb Kohl, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Daniel K. Akaka, Jeff Bingaman, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patty Murray.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mary Geiger Lewis, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Dianne Feinstein, Charles E. Schumer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Robert Menendez, Amy Klobuchar, Herb Kohl, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Daniel K. Akaka, Jeff Bingaman, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patty Murray.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Timothy S. Hillman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Dianne Feinstein, Charles E. Schumer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Robert Menendez, Amy Klobuchar, Herb Kohl, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, John F. Kerry, Daniel K. Akaka, Jeff Bingaman, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patty Murray.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now resume legislative session.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). The Senator from Illinois.

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

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

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise to speak about the issue of judicial

nominations. Our Nation faces a serious problem: 1 out of every 10 Federal judgeships is vacant. Yet we continue to see—unfortunately and sadly—unprecedented obstruction from the other side of the aisle when it comes to these nominations. Right now on the Executive Calendar of the Senate there are 22 judicial nominations pending. Twelve of these 22 were successfully voted out of the Judiciary Committee last year, 2 of them as far back as October, and 17 of the nominees currently on the calendar were voted out with strong bipartisan support. Additionally, 13 of the 22 nominees who are being held have the approval of the Republican Senator from the State where the nomination has been made.

Despite the fact these nominations are not controversial, that they passed by a bipartisan vote in the Judiciary Committee and out of the committee, they still languish on the calendar because of Republican objections.

I know people get tired and say: I wish you all weren't so partisan around here. Well, I hate to give a speech where most will say that is just a partisan speech, but we are talking about nominees who have bipartisan support, with a strong vote coming out of committee being held on the calendar. Despite the fact they are noncontroversial, there have been objections to up-and-down votes. All we ask for is to just give them a vote. It is not right. Unfortunately, it is a new development in the Senate.

It used to be when a noncontroversial district or circuit court nominee was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support, that nominee would literally be approved on the Senate floor usually by voice vote within a matter of days. Even when there were battles over the controversial Supreme Court or appellate court nominees, the Senate never obstructed a noncontroversial nominee at the same time, especially at the district court level.

When President Obama took office, Senate Republicans adopted a new and disturbing strategy. They began refusing to give their consent to schedule votes on almost all judicial nominees. You say to yourself: Well, what is their strategy? It is very apparent. They are praying, of course, that a Republican will be elected President and they can fill the vacancies. They want them to continue to have empty seats on our judicial courts for the remainder of this year until the election. President Obama's nominees have been subjected to an unprecedented level of obstruction by the Republicans, more than any other President has received.

Listen to this: President Obama's district court nominees have waited an average of 93 days on the Senate Executive Calendar between a committee vote and a floor vote. How about George W. Bush? How long did his nominees sit on the calendar before Democrats would let them have a vote?