

LEIGH MAY, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, one of the great honors of being a Member of the Senate is the participation and the confirmation process the Constitution dictates to us on Federal judges and other critical appointees, such as Cabinet members of the President.

I have today a distinct honor and privilege to recommend to all of my colleagues in the Senate a Georgia lawyer who has been nominated by the President of the United States, with the approval of Senator CHAMBLISS and myself, to the Northern District Court of Georgia. Her name is Leigh May. She is an unbelievably exciting, unbelievably knowledgeable, unbelievably accomplished individual.

She graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology, one of the top three engineering schools in the United States of America, with honors, in 1993. Then, in 1998, she graduated from the University of Georgia Law School with a juris doctorate degree, magna cum laude in her class.

From 1998 to 2000, she served as a law clerk to Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. She is a partner in the Atlanta office of Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer, LLP, one of the leading law firms in our State. Her practice focuses on complex civil litigation in both the State and Federal courts, and she is currently vice chair of the litigation section of the Atlanta Bar Association. Her ABA rating is unanimously very “qualified.”

She is a very talented, very deserving person. I thank the President for his nomination. I thank Kathy Ruemmler, who was his leading advisor at the time, for her cooperation in this nomination.

I close my recommendation to my colleagues by telling them this: Please vote for the cloture motion today so we can vote for confirmation tomorrow.

This May, I was asked to address the University of Georgia’s graduation ceremony in Athens, GA. After the speech I made, I went back to the dressing room in the green room, and the dean of the law school came up to me and said: I just want you to know, Mr. ISAKSON, you nominated one of the smartest people to ever graduate from the law school of the University of Georgia when you nominated Leigh May.

I can’t think of a higher or a better recommendation, and I commend Leigh May to my colleagues of the Senate with my highest recommendation in the hopes that folks will vote today to go to cloture and vote for the confirmation tomorrow to confirm Leigh May to the Northern District of Georgia.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LESLIE JOYCE ABRAMS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 856.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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 Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK HOWARD COHEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 857.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk—in fact, it is already at the desk—and ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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 Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 858.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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 Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Bill Nelson, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Dianne Feinstein.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I withdraw my motion to proceed to S. 2609.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

USA FREEDOM ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S.2685.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I ask to have the cloture motion at the desk be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Thomas R. Carper, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders, Carl Levin, Tom Udall, Charles E. Schumer, Mazie K. Hirono, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Moss nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as we return from recess for the remaining days of the 113th Congress, I begin by congratulating my friend Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY who will become chairman of the Judiciary Committee beginning in the 114th Congress. We have a very good working relationship, and I hope this will continue when he assumes the chairmanship in January.

We still have several weeks left in this Congress with much work left to be done. As history shows, when both sides work together, the lame-duck session can be a productive one for filling vacancies on our courts. In 2002, after the midterm elections, Senate Democrats worked to confirm 20 of President Bush's judicial nominees—all but one by voice vote. In the 2006 lame-duck session, after Senate Democrats won the majority in the elections, Democrats agreed to confirm the 14 judicial nominations pending on the floor, but this package was blocked by a Republican Senator. In the most recent lame-duck sessions, in 2010 and 2012, a total of 32 judicial nominees were confirmed. With the 2014 midterm elections behind us, I hope we will, as the incoming majority leader suggests, "clear the decks" on pending business so that we can start fresh next year.

Currently, there are 16 district court nominations that have been pending before the full Senate for months and another eight district court nominations and one Court of International Trade nomination that will be reported out of the Judiciary Committee before the end of the month. There are also six nominees pending before the Senate to fill vacancies on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, two nominees to fill vacancies on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and three nominees to fill vacancies on the U.S. Tax Court.

Today, we will vote to overcome the needless filibuster of just two of the district court nominations that have been pending before the full Senate since June, one of which will fill a judicial emergency vacancy in Georgia.

Randolph Moss is nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Dis-

trict of Columbia. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Mr. Moss "well qualified" to serve on that court—its highest rating. Since 2001, he has been a partner at the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr LLP. He has also served in various capacities for the U.S. Department of Justice. Upon graduating from Yale Law School, Mr. Moss clerked for Judge Pierre N. Leval on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and for Justice John Paul Stevens on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Leigh May is nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer, LLP, in Atlanta, GA, where she has practiced since 2000. After graduating magna cum laude from the University of Georgia Law School, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

We still have much work to do to fill the 64 current judicial vacancies and 27 known upcoming vacancies on our Federal district and circuit courts. Before the end of this Congress we could cut the number of vacancies on our district and circuit courts by one-third. To get this done, however, we must stop delaying for delay's sake votes for consensus nominees. Unless there is cooperation from Republican Senators, we will not have time to clear the Executive Calendar before adjournment. At the very least, I would hope that the Republican Senators who recommended many of the pending judicial nominees to the President will work within their caucus to get consent to confirm their nominees.

I hope all Senators will vote to put an end to the filibuster of these nominations.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2280

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the leader's remarks on Tuesday, November 18, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 371, S. 2280, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; that there be up to 6 hours of debate equally divided between opponents and proponents; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of S. 2280; that no amendments, motions, or points of order be in order to the bill prior to the vote on passage; that the vote on passage be subject to a 60 affirmative-vote