

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephen R. Bough, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "nay".

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 365 Ex.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Baldwin | Harkin | Nelson |
| Begich | Heinrich | Pryor |
| Bennet | Hirono | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Johnson (SD) | Reid |
| Booker | Kaine | Rockefeller |
| Brown | King | Schatz |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Schumer |
| Cardin | Landrieu | Shaheen |
| Carper | Levin | Stabenow |
| Casey | Manchin | Tester |
| Coons | Markey | Udall (CO) |
| Donnelly | McCaskill | Udall (NM) |
| Durbin | Menendez | Walsh |
| Feinstein | Merkley | Warner |
| Franken | Mikulski | Warren |
| Gillibrand | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Hagan | Murray | Wyden |

NAYS—38

| | | |
|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Ayotte | Flake | Murkowski |
| Barrasso | Graham | Paul |
| Boozman | Grassley | Portman |
| Burr | Hatch | Risch |
| Coats | Heitkamp | Roberts |
| Coburn | Heller | Rubio |
| Collins | Hoeven | Scott |
| Corker | Inhofe | Shelby |
| Cornyn | Isakson | Thune |
| Crapo | Johnson (WI) | Toomey |
| Cruz | McCain | Vitter |
| Enzi | McConnell | Wicker |
| Fischer | Moran | |

NOT VOTING—11

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| Alexander | Cochran | Lee |
| Blunt | Johanns | Sanders |
| Boxer | Kirk | Sessions |
| Chambliss | Leahy | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN R. BOUGH TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen R. Bough, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. With this nomination, this will be the last vote of this Congress.

I ask unanimous consent that the remaining cloture motions with respect to judicial nominations be withdrawn and the Senate proceed to vote on the nominations in the order upon which cloture was filed and all time on the Bough nomination be yielded back.

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

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stephen R. Bough, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "no".

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 366 Ex.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Baldwin | Harkin | Nelson |
| Begich | Heinrich | Pryor |
| Bennet | Hirono | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Johnson (SD) | Reid |
| Booker | Kaine | Rockefeller |
| Brown | King | Schatz |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Schumer |
| Cardin | Landrieu | Shaheen |
| Carper | Levin | Stabenow |
| Casey | Manchin | Tester |
| Coons | Markey | Udall (CO) |
| Donnelly | McCaskill | Udall (NM) |
| Durbin | Menendez | Walsh |
| Feinstein | Merkley | Warner |
| Franken | Mikulski | Warren |
| Gillibrand | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Hagan | Murray | Wyden |

NAYS—38

| | | |
|----------|--------|---------|
| Ayotte | Burr | Collins |
| Barrasso | Coats | Corker |
| Boozman | Coburn | Cornyn |

| | | |
|----------|--------------|---------|
| Crapo | Inhofe | Risch |
| Cruz | Isakson | Roberts |
| Enzi | Johnson (WI) | Rubio |
| Fischer | Lee | Scott |
| Flake | McCain | Shelby |
| Graham | McConnell | Thune |
| Grassley | Moran | Toomey |
| Heitkamp | Murkowski | Vitter |
| Heller | Paul | Wicker |
| Hoeven | Portman | |

NOT VOTING—11

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| Alexander | Cochran | Leahy |
| Blunt | Hatch | Sanders |
| Boxer | Johanns | Sessions |
| Chambliss | Kirk | |

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF JORGE LUIS ALONSO TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

NOMINATION OF HAYWOOD STIRLING GILLIAM, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOMINATION OF AMIT PRIYAVADAN MEHTA TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NOMINATION OF ALLISON DALE BURROUGHS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

NOMINATION OF JOHN ROBERT BLAKEY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

NOMINATION OF AMOS L. MAZZANT, III, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

NOMINATION OF ROBERT LEE PITMAN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

NOMINATION OF ROBERT WILLIAM SCHROEDER III TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

NOMINATION OF JOAN MARIE AZRACK TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH K. DILLON TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

NOMINATION OF LORETTA COPELAND BIGGS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Jorge Luis Alonso, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois; Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California; Amit Priyavadan Mehta, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia; Allison Dale Burroughs, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts; John Robert Blakey, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois; Amos L. Mazzant, III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas; Robert Lee Pitman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas; Robert William Schroeder III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas; Joan Marie Azrack, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Elizabeth K. Dillon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia; and Loretta Copeland Biggs, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

ALONSO NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I speak in support of Jorge Alonso, who has been nominated to serve as a Federal district court judge in the Northern District of Illinois. He will fill the vacancy that opened when Judge Ronald Guzman took senior status last month.

Judge Alonso is an outstanding nominee for the Federal bench. He was reported out of the Judiciary Committee last month on a unanimous voice vote.

I want to thank Chairman LEAHY for his efforts to move Judge Alonso's nomination promptly through the Judiciary Committee, and I want to thank the majority leader, Senator REID, for scheduling this vote on the floor.

Since 2003, Jorge Alonso has served as an associate judge for the Cook County Judicial Circuit. He is cur-

rently in his third appointed term as a State trial court judge. Judge Alonso has presided over hundreds of cases that have gone to verdict or judgment, including at least 88 jury trials.

He also presides over the Women's Justice Mental Health Call in Cook County. Judge Alonso helped to create this program, which provides intensive support and services to women in the justice system who have suffered from trauma and addiction.

Prior to serving as a State court judge, Judge Alonso served for 12 years as an assistant public defender in Cook County. As a public defender, he participated in approximately 30 jury trials and 150 bench trials.

In addition to his substantial courtroom and judicial experience, Judge Alonso has an admirable record of service to the Chicago community. Among his activities, he serves on the boards of the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships and support to low-income Chicago students, and the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.

He also works as a judicial inter-venor with the Lawyers' Assistance Program, which assists members of the bar who are struggling with mental health or addiction issues.

Judge Alonso came highly recommended to me by a bipartisan judicial screening committee that I established in the Northern District. I was pleased to recommend Judge Alonso's name to the White House for this nomination.

I also thank my colleague, Senator KIRK, for submitting his blue slip in support of the nomination.

In short, Judge Alonso has the experience, the integrity and the judgment to be an excellent addition to the Federal bench in Chicago. I urge my colleagues to support this outstanding nominee.

VOTE ON ALONSO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jorge Luis Alonso, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON GILLIAM NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MEHTA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Amit Priyavadan Mehta, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BURROUGHS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Allison Dale Burroughs, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts?

The nomination was confirmed.

BLAKEY NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I speak in support of the nomination of Jack Blakey to serve as a Federal district court judge in the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Blakey has been nominated to fill the seat that was left vacant when Chief Judge James Holderman took senior status last December.

In Illinois we have a bipartisan process for recommending Federal district court judges to the White House. Under this process, Mr. Blakey was recommended by my colleague, Senator KIRK, and I support his nomination.

Mr. Blakey currently serves as the chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. He has served in this position since 2009. During that time, he has also served as a special assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Illinois. He helps supervise all joint State-Federal investigations and prosecutions in Cook County.

Mr. Blakey previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago from 2004 to 2009, as an AUSA in Miami from 2000 to 2004, and as an assistant State's attorney in Cook County from 1996 to 2000.

Mr. Blakey has gained significant courtroom experience over the course of his career. He has tried over 90 cases to final verdict, including at least 27 jury trials.

Mr. Blakey is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Notre Dame Law School.

Upon Mr. Blakey's confirmation, the Federal district courts in Illinois will be operating at full strength, with no vacancies in the State.

I urge my colleagues to support this nomination.

VOTE ON BLAKEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John Robert Blakey, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MAZZANT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Amos L. Mazzant, III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON PITMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will

the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert Lee Pitman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SCHROEDER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert William Schroeder III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON AZRACK NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Joan Marie Azrack, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON DILLON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Elizabeth K. Dillon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BIGGS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Loretta Copeland Biggs, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 5701

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5701, which is at the desk; that the bill be read three times and passed; and that the motion to recon-

sider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator SESSIONS, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this objection is very unfortunate. The Oregon congressional delegation has teamed up in a bipartisan way to provide, among other things, trust land for the two remaining Native American tribes in our State that have no land base. These tribes have been waiting for over 100 years, and Senator MERKLEY and I, with the whole Oregon congressional delegation, intend to be back early next year working to pass these bills and stay at it until justice is done.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 4137

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, also on behalf of Senator SESSIONS, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4137; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to be clear, as chair of the Senate Finance Committee, that I oppose taxpayers subsidizing illegal conduct, and I also oppose setting up a one-size-fits-all Federal mandate that is going to create redtape and confusion for our States to implement.

This proposal says that TANF electronic benefits cannot be used in any retail store which sells marijuana. This means that a TANF card cannot be swiped in these locations. The reality is that TANF benefits can be withdrawn for cash, and cash can be spent anywhere. Yet this proposal does not seem to recognize that fact.

Of course, we here in the Senate often hear of burdensome Federal rules and regulations that are imposed on our States and our businesses. My view is this sounds like the epitome of needless bureaucracy in its current form and actually achieves nothing except generating a lot of regulatory hassle.

For the reasons I have stated, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1898

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I came to the floor last week to ask a simple question: Who does this government work for? Does it work only for the billionaires and the biggest corporations or does it work for all of us?

I asked that question last week as Congress considered the government funding bill—a bill that included a completely unrelated provision literally written by Citigroup lobbyists that increased the risk of future taxpayer bailouts just so the biggest banks in this country could rake in more profits. Sadly, that bill was just the latest example of how the government works just fine for those who have already made it.

In the past few years, Federal agencies have entered into a number of major settlement agreements with big banks and other large corporations after those companies have broken the law. These agencies have touted these settlements as being worth millions or in some cases billions of dollars. That sounds like a great deal for taxpayers, but often that sticker price is much higher than the actual value at the settlement. Agencies have often permitted corporations to deduct the cost of the settlement from their taxes, which can cut the actual value of the payment by more than 30 percent. And instead of requiring corporations to actually pay the full settlement amount, agencies often give corporations credits toward the settlement amount for taking certain actions—actions the corporations would have taken even if the settlement had never existed. By structuring the settlements this way, agencies can get credit for being tough on corporate wrongdoers even when the actual deal paints a much different picture.

In January I introduced a bill with Senator COBURN to shed more light on this kind of backroom dealmaking. This bipartisan bill, the Truth in Settlements Act, is pretty simple. It just requires Federal agencies to publicly disclose certain basic information about the major settlements they enter into with corporations—information such as whether a settlement is going to be tax deductible or whether it lets companies claim credit for things they are already doing. That is pretty much it.

The idea behind the bill is straightforward. If the government is going to cut deals on behalf of the American people, the American people are entitled to know what kind of a deal they are getting. That is the only way the public can hold agencies accountable.

The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved the Truth in Settlements Act in July without any objections from any Democrats or any Republicans. The CBO found the bill wouldn't cost taxpayers a single dime. This is a non-partisan, commonsense measure that simply brings more transparency to