

The President promised to fight for American workers. If you love your country, you fight for workers. Instead, this President has betrayed them over and over again. The nomination of Eugene Scalia to be Secretary of Labor is the biggest betrayal of them all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

NOMINATION OF GENERAL JOHN E. HYTEN

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, Gen. John Hyten is before the Senate today to be confirmed. We are anxious to get to this. It has been a long time in the working. It is going to happen, and I am very thankful, not just for the sake of General Hyten but for other officers and junior officers who are looking at a future, knowing some of the problems that exist out there.

I have stood in this very spot and talked about exactly what our Nation is dealing with when it comes to our national security. The world is more dangerous now than it has ever been in my lifetime. China and Russia are building their capabilities as we have fallen behind.

Our national defense strategy lays it all out. We have a document that we use. This is our blueprint. It is one that was put together by Democrats and Republicans some time ago, and we have adhered to it. As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have adhered to it and will continue to do that.

As the Department of Defense and the administration implement the national defense strategy and the recommendations of the NDS Commission, we need confirmed leadership at the Joint Chiefs to provide the military perspective. We need strong, innovative leadership, someone who understands strategy, competition, new warfighting domains like space, and the importance of a strong nuclear deterrent. We need strategic guidance born from years of firsthand experience.

To me, there is no doubt that General Hyten is the right man for the second highest ranking military office. Throughout his service, General Hyten has developed a reputation of discipline, integrity, and honor. For the past 2½ years, he has led STRATCOM, where he has demonstrated shrewd and decisive understanding of our national security objectives.

Before that, he served honorably in top leadership positions at Air Force Space Command. He has willingly and selflessly served this Nation in uniform for nearly four decades. I am confident he is going to keep us on a path to rebuild our military advantage and protect our civilian military relations in all this.

The Senate considered his nomination yesterday on a 20-to-7 vote to advance General Hyten's nomination, and here we are today making this final decision. This came after a fair, exhaustive, bipartisan process, where we

closely reviewed his nomination, including allegations against him. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations ran a tight and thorough investigation.

Now, in all my years I have been here, I have never seen one of those more exhaustive than this one. It went on and on and on, and all the members of the committee were able to read every document that is out there. I am very proud of the committee for taking the deliberate time to make this happen. The committee held five executive sessions, studied thousands of pages of investigative records, and reviewed statements from more than 50 witnesses. Every member had the opportunity to ask questions and to read all the documents. We did it.

The Armed Services Committee made available all the information to make sure there was nothing that was overlooked. The Armed Services Committee takes allegations of sexual assault very seriously, and it has for many years. It is a problem. It is a problem we are addressing on a regular basis. We are on it, and we are going to resolve it.

We went through a period of time in the last administration when the military was taken down in a manner that has never happened before. It was unprecedented. We actually went, in the last 5 years of the Obama administration, to cutting the military by 25 percent. It has never happened before. Now we are going through a rebuilding process. I applaud this President for all he is doing in rebuilding our military. I am proud of him, and that is where we are right now.

Through the NDAA and stringent oversight of the Department's efforts to this end, we are putting a stop to any kind of misconduct that we have been talking about. We can't stop a nomination from going forward on unproven allegations, especially ones we examined with the utmost of care and closest scrutiny and determined not to have merit.

So we are about to do this—about to get this position confirmed. It is overdue. I urge my colleagues to support this nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hyten nomination?

Mr. INHOFE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 312 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Graham	Portman
Barrasso	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Roberts
Blunt	Heinrich	Romney
Boozman	Hoeben	Rosen
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Carper	Johnson	Schatz
Cassidy	Jones	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Coons	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cornyn	King	Shelby
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Sinema
Cotton	Leahy	Smith
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Tester
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Daines	McSally	Tillis
Durbin	Moran	Toomey
Enzi	Murkowski	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Gardner	Perdue	Young

NAYS—22

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Harris	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Stabenow
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Udall
Cardin	Markey	Van Hollen
Casey	Menendez	Wyden
Duckworth	Merkley	
Ernst	Murray	

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Sanders	Warren
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The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Eugene Scalia, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Scalia nomination?

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 313 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Cotton	Hawley
Barrasso	Cramer	Hoeben
Blackburn	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Blunt	Cruz	Inhofe
Boozman	Daines	Isakson
Braun	Enzi	Johnson
Burr	Ernst	Kennedy
Capito	Fischer	Lankford
Cassidy	Gardner	Lee
Collins	Graham	McConnell
Cornyn	Grassley	McSally

Moran	Romney	Sullivan
Murkowski	Rounds	Thune
Paul	Rubio	Tillis
Perdue	Sasse	Toomey
Portman	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Risch	Scott (SC)	Young
Roberts	Shelby	

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Udall
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Harris	Peters	

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Sanders	Warren
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The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 422.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Barbara McConnell Barrett, of Arizona, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The senior 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Barbara McConnell Barrett, of Arizona, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

Mitch McConnell, Martha McSally, Rick Scott, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 359.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Frank William Volk, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The senior 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Frank William Volk, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia.

Mitch McConnell, Martha McSally, Rick Scott, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 363.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charles R. Eskridge III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The senior 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Charles R. Eskridge III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Martha McSally, Rick Scott, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 328.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David John Novak, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The senior 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David John Novak, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.