

Fischer, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Steve Daines, James M. Inhofe, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, Jerry Moran.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Andrew P. Bremberg, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 328 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blackburn	Graham	Roberts
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Paul	Young
Ernst	Perdue	

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Isakson	Whitehouse
Booker	Sanders	
Harris	Warren	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrew P. Bremberg, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:19 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, this afternoon, I rise to urge my colleagues here in the U.S. Senate to support the pending cloture motion on H.R. 3055 so we can get the appropriations process moving. It is already day 22 of the current fiscal year. The entire Federal Government, as you know, is now operating under a continuing resolution, and in less than a month, that continuing resolution will expire.

By this time last year, Congress had already funded 75 percent of the government, including America's military. It was the first time in 10 years that Congress had funded the military on time. That success paid huge dividends for our country and for our men and women in uniform. Now, they face an uncertain future. The prospect of serial continuing resolutions or, worse, another government shutdown casts a dark shadow over our previous success. Such uncertainty also wreaks havoc on every Federal agency's abilities to plan, and it is acute when it comes to the military.

As our military leaders seek to ensure that planning and operations keep pace with activities and challenges around the globe, they are faced with the hard reality that Congress is not keeping pace with our own duties here. Congress' failure to do its own job makes that of the military all the more difficult in this troubled world. I believe that is unacceptable.

Nonetheless, we have hit a stalemate in the appropriations process lately. The clock is ticking on the continuing resolution, as I said, and we have to break through the logjam. I hope we can do it today. The only way to do that is through bipartisan cooperation, as the Presiding Officer knows, as a member of the Appropriations Committee and chair of a very important subcommittee.

The vice chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee, my good friend, Senator LEAHY, a Democrat from

Vermont, suggested that the Senate proceed first to a package of domestic spending bills to try to break the stalemate. This is what we are trying to do today. In an effort to demonstrate good faith and get off the dime, that is what we are hopefully going to do later today.

I want to take a minute to thank Senator LEAHY for proposing a path forward out of our stall. I would also just like to emphasize to all my colleagues that this path leads to success if it ends with Congress funding the entire government, not just part of it. We have a lot of work to do, but we can do it. We have also before us the opportunity to get it done, so this is where we pick up today.

Last month, the Appropriations Committee, as the Chair knows, reported 10 bills to the full Senate. If we are able to proceed to H.R. 3055, it is my intention here on the floor to offer a substitute amendment that includes four of these bills that we passed out of the committee, each of which passed unanimously in a bipartisan way. What are those bills, and what do they fund? The Commerce Department, the Justice Department, Science bill—we call it Commerce, Justice, and Science—the Agriculture bill, the Interior bill, and the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development bill.

I want to take a minute to thank the chairs of these subcommittees for their diligence in producing balanced bills: Senator MORAN, Senator HOEVEN, Senator MURKOWSKI, and Senator COLLINS. I also want to thank their respective ranking members, the Democrats, for their bipartisan cooperation here: Senator SHAHEEN, Senator MERKLEY, Senator UDALL, and Senator REED.

Together, these four measures before us today account for nearly one-third—one-third—of all nondefense discretionary spending. Consistent with the bipartisan budget agreement, they contain no new poison pills, and I would caution my colleagues on both sides of the aisle against pursuing poison pill amendments if we are able to proceed today. If we are to make any progress on the 2020 appropriations bills, I think we must be true to our commitment, enshrined in terms of the budget agreement, to refrain from such provisions to move the process.

I would also like to move this package through regular order so we can return quickly to a second package that the majority leader spoke to us at lunch today about that funds the military and many more other agencies. There is simply no excuse for further delay.

With all that we ask for our military, with all the challenges it already faces, with all the additional uncertainties that stopgap funding creates, and with all that has been said recently about the need to support our allies and counter our adversaries around the world, I hope that our colleagues will not say to our men and women in uniform: We will get to you later.

We should instead capitalize on the good will that we are trying to generate in this first package on appropriations by immediately moving to the next one that funds the military and so many other agencies.

This process only works if we work together in a bipartisan way, as Madam President knows. Let's work together this afternoon, and let's do our job so we can move forward for the American people. I think we should not leave our military and others to think that the government is in limbo any longer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

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

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

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, as the distinguished senior Senator from Alabama has said, we are going to be voting soon on our "domestic minibus." We will vote on a cloture motion to proceed to H.R. 3055.

I understand that that once we are on the bill, Chairman SHELBY is going to offer a substitute amendment that will include four bills that were reported from the Appropriations Committee with every Republican and every Democrat voting for them—the Agriculture bill, the Interior bill, the Commerce-Justice-Science bill, and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill.

I know that some feel that sometimes the Congress gets so polarized that we could not have a unanimous vote that the Sun rises in the east, but this was a case where we did in our committee, which has representatives of all wings of the Republican Party and all wings of the Democratic Party. We all voted aye, and I would urge Members to vote aye.

I am pleased that the substitute package will not include the Military Construction and the Veterans Affairs bill, and let me explain why.

The underlying House vehicle we are moving to contains the House version of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill, but the Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet considered this bill. We have not had debate in the committee. We have not had a vote on it in committee. It would be premature to bring it to the Senate floor.

It is an important bill. It is an important bill that I have always supported because it funds critical programs, particularly for our veterans. But President Trump wants to insist on using the bill to take funding from our troops and their families to fund his ineffective wall—a wall that he gave his word Mexico would pay for—and that is unacceptable.

Look at the people who are affected by the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill. Let's not get them tied up in a Presidential campaign promise. Let's look at the military families who are now living in substandard housing. Let's look at the veterans who are not getting the care they need. Let's have a clean bill.

Had the bill with the President's wall been in this—the American people would be paying for it and not Mexico, as the President promised—I would have been unable to support the cloture motion.

I am going to have more to say about each of the four bipartisan bills included in Chairman SHELBY's substitute when we turn to them. Hopefully we can by tomorrow. Each one funds programs that are important to the American people and our economy. They make critical investments in affordable housing, infrastructure, rural development, our farming communities, our small businesses, and our environment. They are good bills. I was glad to work with Senator SHELBY so we could have these bills before the Senate. They speak to real needs of the American people.

Now we have only 4 short weeks before the continuing resolution we are operating under expires. Four weeks can go by very quickly around here. We need to do our work. We need to do it quickly. We should be able to enact all 12 appropriations bills into law. I was going to say the Senate deserves no less, but it is the American people who deserve no less. So I will continue to work with Senator SHELBY and others, both Republicans and Democrats alike, to get these bills done.

We have a vote coming up soon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON BREMBERG NOMINATION

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

Mr. CARDIN. Madam 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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

from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 329 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blackburn	Graham	Roberts
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Paul	Young
Ernst	Perdue	

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Isakson	Warren
Harris	Sanders	Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.J. RES. 77

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I am rising once again to ask the Senate's consent to move to the H.J. Res. 77 condemning the President's abrupt decision to withdraw U.S. troops from northern Syria.

Despite the Pandora's box of problems the President's decision has opened, the slaughter of our partners, the Kurds—and I think many of us on both sides of the aisle ache for the Kurds who risked their lives. Many of them lost their lives so our soldiers would not be in harm's way.

With the strategic gains of our adversaries in Tehran, Moscow, and Damascus and, most troubling, the potential resurgence of ISIS, the President has failed to articulate any strategy at all. We have asked to have Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Esper, and Director Haspel come before us. They have canceled again today because they don't have a plan.

Now, this is America at risk. We in New York know better than anybody else how a small group of people thousands of miles away—evil people—can