

whether Ms. Skipwith has recused herself from working on those issues. Unfortunately, Ms. Skipwith has refused to answer those questions.

She has repeatedly refused to provide her calendars with the appointments she has had as a Department of the Interior official. This information could be made available to any member of the public under the Freedom of Information Act, but she has refused to provide it to me for months within the confirmation process.

This information is important because Ms. Skipwith's former employer, Gage International, has represented water utilities that have lobbied Congress to weaken Western water policy and the Endangered Species Act.

Unanswered questions also remain about Ms. Skipwith's role in the development of a controversial repeal of an existing ban on using pesticides that have been shown to harm birds and bees in national wildlife refuges. And one of the largest producers of these pesticides is Monsanto, another one of Ms. Skipwith's former employers.

Yet when Senator GILLIBRAND asked Ms. Skipwith about her role in the ban's repeal, Ms. Skipwith defended the reversal but denied any role in the decision. This answer does not appear to be consistent with some of the email records that have been obtained under Freedom of Information Act, which show that she expressed interest in the matter and received materials on the issue from career staff.

If Ms. Skipwith was indeed involved with the decision to reverse the pesticides ban, it would constitute a violation of the ethics pledge she signed when she joined the Department. An examination of Ms. Skipwith's calendar entries could clear up these outstanding questions, but her lack of cooperation makes that impossible.

This lack of being forthcoming is troubling, not only because it undermines the Senate's advice and consent role for Presidential nominees, but it also because it demonstrates the nominee's may not be cooperative when it comes to congressional oversight.

I have found that, when a nominee is unwilling to provide information as part of their confirmation process, they almost always prove to be even more defiant to congressional oversight requests after they are confirmed.

I urge my colleagues, especially my Republican colleagues, to take this matter seriously. In fact, I would urge my Republican colleagues to remember these words spoken by my friend, former Congressman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina.

In June 2012, during the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee contempt proceedings against Attorney General Holder, then Congressman Gowdy said: "The notion that you can withhold information and documents from Congress no matter whether you are the party in power or not in power is wrong. Respect for the

rule of law must mean something, irrespective of the vicissitudes of political cycles."

Eventually, whether it is in 1 year or in 4 years or in 8, we will eventually have another Democratic administration. And when that time comes, Republicans in Congress will want officials in that Democratic administration to answer questions and respond to congressional oversight requests.

I fear that my Senate colleagues will find the process completely broken by then if we continue undermining our duty as Senators to both provide advice and consent on Presidential nomination and to conduct congressional oversight.

This clear defiance of our sworn constitutional duty and congressional oversight role diminishes the Senate, weakens our intricate system of checks and balances, and undermines the trust of the American people.

Beyond her lack of qualifications and her questionable role in some of this administration's major conservation policies, there are too many troubling concerns and questions about this nominee that remain unaddressed or unanswered.

Therefore, I will be opposing this nomination, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was going to start at 11:45 a.m. start now.

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 395 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Braun	Cotton
Barrasso	Capito	Cramer
Blackburn	Cassidy	Crapo
Blunt	Collins	Cruz
Boozman	Cornyn	Daines

Enzi	Lankford	Rubio
Ernst	Lee	Sasse
Fischer	Manchin	Scott (FL)
Gardner	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Graham	McCally	Sinema
Grassley	Moran	Sullivan
Hawley	Murkowski	Thune
Hoeven	Perdue	Tillis
Hyde-Smith	Portman	Toomey
Inhofe	Risch	Wicker
Johnson	Roberts	Young
Jones	Romney	
Kennedy	Rounds	

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—9

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Klobuchar	Shelby
Duckworth	Paul	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Joseph Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

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

Mr. INHOFE. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), 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 70, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 396 Ex.]

YEAS—70

Alexander	Blunt	Capito
Barrasso	Boozman	Cardin
Blackburn	Braun	Carper

Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Collins	Inhofe	Rosen
Coons	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Jones	Rubio
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Sasse
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cramer	King	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Shaheen
Cruz	Leahy	Shelby
Daines	Lee	Sinema
Durbin	Manchin	Sullivan
Enzi	McConnell	Tester
Ernst	McSally	Thune
Feinstein	Merkley	Tillis
Fischer	Moran	Toomey
Gardner	Murkowski	Udall
Graham	Murphy	Van Hollen
Grassley	Perdue	Wicker
Hassan	Portman	Young
Hawley	Risch	
Hoeven	Roberts	

## NAYS—22

Baldwin	Heinrich	Schumer
Bennet	Hirono	Smith
Blumenthal	Markey	Stabenow
Brown	Menendez	Warner
Cantwell	Murray	Whitehouse
Casey	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Harris	Schatz	

## NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Klobuchar	Warren
Duckworth	Paul	

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 action.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Hahn nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TO COMMEMORATE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 150 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 150) expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I further ask that the resolution be

agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 150) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 9, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, we have just passed the Armenian genocide resolution recognition. It is fitting and appropriate that the Senate stands on the right side of history in doing so. It commemorates the truth of the Armenian genocide.

On Monday, we commemorated the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the victims of the crime of genocide and of the prevention of this crime. The UN General Assembly established this day of remembrance to commemorate and honor the victims of genocide and highlight efforts to combat and prevent genocide. Passing this resolution is a fitting tribute to this day of remembrance.

I have come to the floor on various occasions to talk about the history of the Armenian genocide. An Armenian priest, Krikoris Balakian, recorded some of the massacres against the Armenians. He said:

In Ankara and its surroundings, only a couple hundred miles east of Constantinople, the killing was done with "axes, cleavers, shovels, and pitchforks." It was like a slaughterhouse; Armenians were hacked to pieces . . . infants were dashed on rocks before the eyes of their mothers.

It was indescribable horror. Even when Armenians were supposedly deported, the conditions they were forced to live in made clear that Turkey's ultimate goal was to eliminate the Armenian people.

A visitor to one Turkish city in October of 1915 wrote: "The 16,000 deported Armenians who were living in the tents have been sent to Konia in cattle trucks. At night, while thousands of these unfortunate people, without food or shelter, shiver with cold, those brutes who are supposed to be their guardians attack them with clubs. And push them towards the station. Women, children, and old men are packed together in the trucks. The men have to climb on to the top of the trucks, in spite of the dreadful cold. Their cries are heart-breaking, but all is in vain. Hunger, cold, and fatigue, together with the Government's deeds of violence, will soon achieve the extermination of the last remnant of the Armenian people."

Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador for Turkey, from 1913 to 1916, understood full well what was transpiring. He left his post in early 1916 because, as he later recalled, "My failure to stop the destruction of the Armenians had made Turkey for me a place of horror."

American diplomats like Henry Morgenthau were on the ground in Turkey, and they made heroic efforts to help the Armenian people, but here in Washington at the time, no one did anything in the face of this heinous crime.

As former UN Ambassador Samantha Power wrote in her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "A Problem from Hell," "America's nonresponse to the Turkish horrors established patterns that would be repeated."

As my colleague from Texas, my co-sponsor who has been such a stalwart advocate with me, has very often noted, this is the first genocide to be recorded in this century. We know all too well the horrors in the 20th century with the Holocaust and other genocides around the world. So here in the Senate today, we break those patterns. We join the House and voted to do so by passing a resolution affirming the facts of the genocide, 405 to 11. Today, the Senate shows the same resolve.

I am deeply grateful to Senator CRUZ for his stalwart leadership on this issue and to the 27 other Senators from both parties who have cosponsored the resolution and demonstrated their commitment to the truth, and the truth finally will set us free.

I am thankful that this resolution has passed in a time in which there are still survivors of the genocide. We will be able to see that the Senate acknowledges what they left.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I thank my colleague and friend, the Senator from New Jersey, for his powerful remarks, and I rise today and celebrate a bipartisan achievement—an achievement of the Senate; an achievement for truth; an achievement for speaking the truth to darkness, for speaking the truth to evil, for speaking the truth to murder, for speaking the truth to genocide.

This journey has been a long journey. Senator MENENDEZ has been fighting this fight a long time. I have been proud to stand by his side. This is the third week in a row we have come to the Senate floor seeking to pass this resolution. I am grateful that today we have succeeded.

The Menendez-Cruz resolution affirms U.S. recognition of the Armenian genocide. It has been far too long in coming. From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire carried out a forced deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians, of whom 1.5 million were killed. It was an atrocious genocide. That it happened is a fact and undeniable reality.

In fact, the very word "genocide" literally means the killing of an entire people, and it was coined by Raphael Lemkin to describe the horrific nature of the Ottoman Empire's calculated extermination of the Armenians. It is why we have the horrid word "genocide" in our English language.

Over 100 years ago, the world remained silent as the Armenian people