

RATCLIFFE directly contradicts what the Intelligence community had written in plain English. It said: ‘‘We did not make an assessment of the impact that Russian activities had on the outcome of the 2016 election.’’ So I asked JOHN RATCLIFFE where he got his information. He referred back to the Intelligence community’s assessment and the committee’s report, neither of which supported JOHN RATCLIFFE’s statements.

You have to ask yourself, Why would JOHN RATCLIFFE say something that is obviously not true? That is because Donald Trump wants us to believe that he didn’t benefit from Russian interference, and that, first and foremost, is what matters to JOHN RATCLIFFE. If JOHN RATCLIFFE is willing to misrepresent intelligence assessments that are already public that anybody can read for themselves, my take is there is no telling how he would misrepresent intelligence that is still classified.

There is every reason to believe his public statements would be designed for one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to make sure that Donald Trump is pleased. Neither the Congress nor the American people have any reason to trust that JOHN RATCLIFFE’s testimony or his other public statements are accurate.

My view is this kind of approach taken by the Director of National Intelligence is a real threat to democracy. When the Director of National Intelligence demonstrates that he is willing to bury the actual intelligence and say whatever makes Donald Trump happy at any particular moment, the American people are going to lose confidence and lose confidence quickly.

It is not just about foreign interference in our democracy. That is plenty serious as it is. It is about other threats from countries like Iran, North Korea, and China. It is about weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. It is about whether the government is secretly spying on Americans without a warrant or committing torture. Ultimately, it is about the issue of war and peace and whether Americans will be asked to die for our country.

The American people look to intelligence leaders for the facts—the facts, the unvarnished truth on these and other issues, which is why it is so important this position must have a foundation of credibility.

Time and again, JOHN RATCLIFFE has demonstrated that he does not clear that lowest bar; that bar that means you have to have credibility in this position, and I urge my colleagues, when we vote in a few minutes, to reject JOHN RATCLIFFE’s nomination to be Director of National Intelligence.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON RATCLIFFE NOMINATION

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ‘‘yea.’’

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 101 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—7

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Alexander | Murkowski | Sanders |
| Burr | Murray | |
| Markey | Rounds | |

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John Leonard Badalamenti, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, with respect to the Ratcliffe nomination, 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 Senator from Maryland.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I know that we are all looking forward to trying to finish our legislative work this week. The majority leader has announced that next week the Senate will be in recess for the traditional Memorial Day recess.

Let me just urge our colleagues that before we leave for the recess, we need to act on the challenges that COVID-19 is imposing on our State and local governments. To me, it would be irresponsible for us to leave and go into recess recognizing that our State and local governments are so much impacted by COVID-19.

They are making decisions now. They have to put their budgets together. They have to adjust this year’s budget and plan for next year’s budget. What is in the balance? Well, it is our municipalities, it is law enforcement, it is police, it is fire, it is emergency rescue. For our counties, it is our schools and funding of our schools. It also deals with public health for our State. It is public health and so many other different issues that are dependent upon the State having the resources in order to respond to the needs of their citizens—our constituents—as well as to deal with the challenges of COVID-19.

I will give you one example on that. This week, by teleconference with representatives of our higher education, University of Maryland—they depend very much on the revenues they get from the State and the revenues they get from their students. Both are very much in jeopardy today. The least we can do is to make sure that the States have the resources to continue these critical missions. They just don’t have it.

Let me give you some of the numbers so that my colleagues are aware of it. For the State of Maryland, in the revenue projections for the current fiscal year that ends June 30, the revenues will be off by as much as \$925 million to \$1.25 billion. Those are revenue losses. On top of that, their fiscal year 2022 revenue projection is another loss of \$2.1 to \$2.4 billion. That is for the State of Maryland. Those are not our subdivisions.

Baltimore City is projecting a reduction in revenues by \$141 million this year. That is going to require layoffs. They have already talked about layoffs and not hiring additional police officers. Those police officers are needed in order to keep Baltimore safe. We know the challenges we have in our municipal centers, and Baltimore City is

under a consent order decree. That is being jeopardized by the inability of Baltimore to deal with these costs. They have to balance their budget.

The State of Maryland has to balance its budget. Baltimore City has to balance its budget. It doesn't have the leeway we have in order to respond to a crisis by pumping money at a problem.

Baltimore County has a \$172 million revenue projection. That is a 22-percent reduction in this year's budget in regard to income tax revenues alone. They have a 70-percent reduction in motel and hotel tax revenues.

For Montgomery County, our neighbor that borders DC, there is a \$250 million projected revenue loss for this year. Prince George's County has a \$184 million revenue loss for this year, and that includes a reduction of \$886 million in income tax revenues. Anne Arundel County anticipates a \$63 million loss of revenue. They have frozen all positions. Howard County projects a \$30 to \$40 million loss of revenue. They normally have a growth of \$25 million. That is a swing of \$55 million to \$65 million for a county that wasn't large enough to get direct help under the CARES Act.

I mention the CARES Act because it was an important bill. When we first took it up, it did not include a robust provision for State and local. We put that in on the Senate floor, and we are pleased we were able to do that. It is limited. It is limited because the money that we made available under the CARES Act provided help to State and local governments on their direct costs associated with COVID-19. That money has been used for direct costs associated with COVID-19.

I have already pointed out the revenue losses in the State of Maryland and in our subdivisions. The CARES Act doesn't provide any help in regard to making up for the revenue losses. The CARES Act went only to jurisdictions of 500,000 or more—over 500,000.

Only a few of our counties were eligible for help in my State. Most of our counties were not eligible for help directly. They had to apply through the State, but they were not eligible for direct help.

Let me give you one county: Wicomico County, Eastern Shore of Maryland. That is where the poultry processing plants are located. That is where the problems of COVID-19 needed to be contained. We did not provide any direct help to Wicomico County in regard to stabilization funds. That was wrong.

As we all know, we treated our host jurisdiction here, the District of Columbia, wrongly by not allowing them to get the same minimum distribution as a State. The CARES Act helped, but it didn't deal with the current crisis that we now find at State and local governments.

The Governors have issued a bipartisan plea. Governor Hogan, who is the chair of the National Governors Association, the Republican Governor from

Maryland, and Governor Cuomo, the Democratic Governor from New York, have joined with all of our Governors in saying that they need help now from the Federal Government in order to maintain critical missions of public safety, of public health, of education and, yes, to meet the direct needs related to COVID-19. They need help now. Yes, we need to respond.

I am pleased that there is a bipartisan group of Senators who have filed the SMART Act. The Governors say they need \$500 billion in order to get through this immediate crisis—\$500 billion more. Well, the SMART Act provides \$500 billion. Two-thirds would go to the State and one-third to the local governments. That is an important start, but we could do better than that.

The HEROES Act, the bill that passed the House of Representatives, provides \$875 billion, and 57 percent goes to the States, meeting what the States need; that is, basically the States' needs. And 42 percent goes to local governments, half to the counties, half to municipalities over 50,000. That would go a long way to meeting the needs of our local first responders, our police, our fire, our emergency rescue, our schools. Those types of issues could be addressed under that need.

We have to respond. We just can't go home and say that this is not our problem. These are our constituents. They depend upon local police and fire. They depend upon our schools being prepared to educate their children. They depend upon sanitation being collected. They depend upon the public health capacities. That is where they get those services. If we don't provide the wherewithal under the balanced budget rules, they are not going to be able to provide those essential services.

My plea is that before we go into recess, let us take up at least the issues affecting State and local governments and do something to help so that they can continue to provide essential services to our constituents and they can deal with the direct costs associated with COVID-19 in their communities.

As we are beginning to reopen our communities, we need to make sure our State and local governments have the resources to respond to the challenges when more people are getting together. We also need to respond if we are going to get our economy back on track. It is not going to get back on track if our State and local governments are laying off their workers. We need to respond in a positive way, and we need to do that now.

I urge my colleagues to take up legislation before we go into recess in order to help the people of our Nation through our State and local governments.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. CRUZ pertaining to the introduction of S. 3835 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CRUZ. I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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 John Leonard Badalamenti, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Rob Portman, Shelley Moore Capito, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Pat Roberts, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo.

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 John Leonard Badalamenti, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 65, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 102 Ex.]

YEAS—65

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Barrasso | Cramer | Graham |
| Blackburn | Crapo | Grassley |
| Blunt | Cruz | Hassan |
| Boozman | Daines | Hawley |
| Braun | Duckworth | Hooven |
| Capito | Durbin | Hyde-Smith |
| Carper | Enzi | Inhofe |
| Cassidy | Ernst | Johnson |
| Collins | Feinstein | Jones |
| Cornyn | Fischer | Kennedy |
| Cotton | Gardner | King |