

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 Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, 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 were necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) 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 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—65

Alexander	Ernst	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Peters
Blackburn	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hassan	Roberts
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Burr	Hoeven	Rosen
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Carper	Inhofe	Rubio
Casey	Jones	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	King	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Tester
Cramer	Loeffler	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Udall
Daines	McSally	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Wicker
Durbin	Murphy	Young
Enzi	Paul	

NAYS—25

Baldwin	Heinrich	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kaine	Smith
Booker	Klobuchar	Van Hollen
Brown	Markey	Warren
Cantwell	Menendez	Whitehouse
Coons	Merkley	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—10

Capito	Moran	Sullivan
Graham	Sanders	Tillis
Harris	Sinema	
Johnson	Stabenow	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 25.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Louisiana.

HURRICANE LAURA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, on August 27, Louisiana and southeastern Texas were hit by Hurricane Laura.

I say “Louisiana” because if you look at some of the press reports, they say “Southwest Louisiana,” but the impact of Hurricane Laura in Louisiana was much greater.

The storm came onshore in Southwest Louisiana in Cameron Parish. It headed north, then moved northeast, and finished in the northeastern part of our State.

I have seen the damage from the air and on the ground. I have never seen a hurricane do this kind of damage in any State, much less Louisiana.

The path of destruction is about 60 miles wide, starting in Southwest Louisiana, running north, bending to the northeast, and it is about 200 miles long. We took it full in the face.

When you see devastation like this, when you go through something like this, you start to understand that we human beings are a vain lot. We think we can control nature, but nature controls us.

Our entire electrical system went down. Our water system went down. Our internet went down. Our cable TV went down. It was a category 4 storm with winds of up to 150 miles an hour.

This storm was unusual in that winds were sustained and did not dissipate as it got further inland. We took it full in the face.

Now, it doesn’t do any good to complain. Louisianans are resilient people. We live by the old Japanese proverb: “Fall down seven times, stand up eight.” We are standing back up.

About 60 percent of our electrical power has been restored. We now have water back. In some cases, there are still some boil orders because the water is not clean. But we are deficient in one area, and that is cable TV and internet, with an emphasis on internet.

I want you to understand I am not talking here about a mere inconvenience. I am not talking about people missing their favorite television shows. I am talking about kids’ education; I am talking about the ability to deliver healthcare; and I am talking about the ability to conduct commerce. None of those things can be done in today’s world without the internet. The internet, particularly in Southwest Louisiana, is provided by a company called Suddenlink.

(Ms. MURKOWSKI assumed the Chair.)

Suddenlink is owned—it was purchased by a company called Altice USA. Its CEO is a gentleman whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting, Mr. Dexter Goei, and I am here today to plead with Suddenlink to please get our internet restored. Suddenlink has done such an abysmal job that Suddenlink needs to change its name to Neverlink.

Suddenlink provides internet service to 150,000 Louisianans. I haven’t studied their financials, but let’s say at \$150 a month, if you include the cable television part, Louisianans pay Suddenlink—soon to be named Neverlink if they don’t do a better job—about \$23 million a month.

Now, all of our public utilities have been working very hard.

Entergy has worked hard. AT&T has worked hard. CenterPoint Energy has worked hard to get our utilities restored so that we can start recovering.

Suddenlink has not worked hard. At one point, we had 29,000 people on the ground helping us to restore our water system, helping us to restore our electric power, helping us to cut trees, helping us to get tarps on roofs. We had at most 300 representatives from Suddenlink—300 representatives to handle restoring internet for 150,000 Louisianans.

Suddenlink should be ashamed of itself. We have restored about 60 percent of our electrical power. We have restored about 16 percent of our internet.

Once again, I am not talking about someone missing their favorite television program. As the Presiding Officer knows, because you have the same situation in Alaska, all of our public schools are not open, all of our private schools are not open because of the virus. Many of our kids are having to learn remotely, and they can’t do it without the internet. They can’t.

The Presiding Officer is also aware of how the internet is integral to the ability to deliver healthcare. I don’t know a single business today that can operate without the internet. Many of our businesses, including our small businesses, because they can’t have customers coming into their shops, are doing a lot of their commerce over the internet. There is just one problem in Louisiana. Because of Suddenlink dragging its feet, we don’t have internet, and we can’t recover without it.

I don’t mean to be overly critical, but this has just gotten out of hand. Every one of our public utilities has done a yeoman’s work—has done an extraordinary job—except the one—except the one. If Mr. Dexter Goei is listening tonight—and again, I don’t mean to be overly critical. I plan to visit with him in the next couple of days. I think he has finally agreed to come visit Louisiana.

We have three requests. First of all, we need workers on the ground. You can’t restore the internet service without people working to restore the internet service, and let me say it again. Entergy, just to pick one of our utility companies, has over 10,000 workers restoring the power. Suddenlink, which provides internet for 150,000 people, has a grand total of 300 people. It can’t be done. We are currently not a priority, even though 150,000 of my people write a monthly check to Suddenlink.

No. 1, Suddenlink, respectfully, put some people on the ground to get our internet restored.

No. 2, we need a local office for Suddenlink. They don’t even have one. Maybe it is because they don’t have internet, but many people lost their homes. At a minimum, they lost their roofs. They don’t have cable boxes.

They have to have somebody they can go to and say: Here is my old box. Give me a new box. But Suddenlink doesn't even have a local office.

No. 3, I am going to ask Mr. Goei to please commit to our State leadership to start giving us a daily update on restoring the service—how many homes and businesses have been added each day.

Again, I know I am repeating myself, I don't mean to be overly critical and we have been very patient in Louisiana, but the time has come to call it like it is and say it like it is. At the rate they are going, Suddenlink needs to change its name to Neverlink in Louisiana. We cannot recover without internet—we can't do it—and Suddenlink link has let us down.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the postcloture time on the Meyers nomination expire at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. I further ask that if cloture is invoked on the Lucas nomination, the postcloture time expire at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on the confirmation of the nomination; finally, that following disposition of the Lucas nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Sonderling nomination.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO BILL BROCK

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, congratulations to my friend, Bill Brock, who is celebrating his 90th birthday.

When I think of Bill, I think of a Tennessean who has served our State and our country honorably for over a half century. Bill grew up in Chattanooga and started his lifetime of service in the U.S. Navy. He was then first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1962. Bill served for

three terms before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1971, replacing Democrat Senator Albert Gore. After his distinguished tenure in the Senate, Bill went on the serve as U.S. Trade Representative and U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Bill was a force in the Republican Party, both nationally, serving as chairman of the Republican National Committee, and in the State of Tennessee. In fact, he was a pioneer in the transformation of our Tennessee Republican Party; turning Tennessee from a Democratic stronghold to a two-party State simply would not have happened without Bill. He laid the foundation for a long lineage of Tennesseans that include Howard Baker, Jr., Winfield Dunn, Fred Thompson, Bill Frist, Bill Haslam, Bill Lee, and others who have served our State proudly and left legacies of exceptional service to those who elected them.

It has been a pleasure to know Bill over the years; he has been a champion of the principles that united us as Americans and has a strong record of working with others to get results. I wish my friend the best on the celebration of his 90th birthday and hope that his legacy serves as an example to future Tennesseans seeking to represent our State in public office.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER WITH RESPECT TO IRAN THAT TAKES ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12957 OF MARCH 15, 1995—PM 58

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44), the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") that affirms that it remains the policy of the United States to counter Iran's malign influence in the Middle East, including transfers from

Iran of destabilizing conventional weapons and acquisition of arms and related materiel by Iran. Transfers to and from Iran of arms or related materiel or military equipment represent a continuing threat to regional and international security. Iran benefits from engaging in the conventional arms trade by strengthening its relationships with other outlier regimes, lessening its international isolation, and deriving revenue that it uses to support terror groups and fund malign activities.

In light of these findings and in order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995 (Prohibiting Certain Transactions with Respect to the Development of Iranian Petroleum Resources), the order blocks property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

- To engage in any activity that materially contributes to the supply, sale, or transfer, directly or indirectly, to or from Iran, or for the use in or benefit of Iran, of arms or related materiel, including spare parts;

- To provide to Iran any technical training, financial resources or services, advice, other services, or assistance related to the supply, sale, transfer, manufacture, maintenance, or use of arms and related materiel described above;

- To have engaged, or attempted to engage, in any activity that materially contributes to, or poses a risk of materially contributing to, the proliferation of arms or related materiel or items intended for military end-uses or military end-users, including any efforts to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, or use such items, by the Government of Iran (including persons owned or controlled by, or acting for or on behalf of the Government of Iran) or paramilitary organizations financially or militarily supported by the Government of Iran;

- To have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or

- To be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

- Under section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)), the order also suspends the immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of aliens determined to meet one or more of the criteria above for the blocking of property and interests in property.