

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 James Ray Knepp II, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Mitch McConnell, John Barrasso, David Perdue, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Kevin Cramer, Martha McSally, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, John Thune, James E. Risch, Mike Braun, Tim Scott.

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. 866.

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 Michael Jay Newman, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

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 Michael Jay Newman, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Mitch McConnell, John Barrasso, David Perdue, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Kevin Cramer, Martha McSally, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, John Thune, James E. Risch, Mike Braun, Tim Scott.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 526

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, the Communist Party of China is committing a genocide against the Uighur people. Let me say that again. The Communist Party of China is committing a genocide against the Uighur people.

Under General Secretary of the Communist Party Xi, 1 million Uighurs have been placed in concentration camps simply because of their religion. The Xi regime is reportedly performing forced abortions and forced sterilization of Uighur women.

The Communist Party of China is harvesting organs from Uighurs and members of the Falun Gong. The Communist Party assigns male Han Chinese to regularly sleep in the same beds as the wives of Uighur men detained in the camps.

In addition to these disgusting human rights abuses, the Communist Party of China is stripping away the freedom and autonomy that the people of Hong Kong were guaranteed. They are threatening Taiwan, building up their military to compete with us, arresting and detaining foreign journalists, and punishing anyone who disagrees with them.

General Secretary Xi has established a surveillance system in Beijing that tracks every movement you make online and in person. The actions of Xi and the Chinese Communist Party fly in the face of the fundamental values that unite freedom-loving countries around the world—values that the Olympic Games are meant to foster and promote. Yet, in just 2 years, Communist China is slated to host the 2022 Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee's Charter states: "The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

The host city contract the IOC adopted in 2017 requires that hosts protect and respect human rights. Unfortunately, but not by accident, the contract does not take effect until after the 2022 Beijing games. Think about that. It was 56 years ago that the International Olympic Committee took a historic step and stood up to the Government of South Africa and its racist apartheid system and banned the country from participation in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. South Africa was also excluded for the 1968 Mexico City games, and in 1970, the IOC indefinitely expelled South Africa from Olympic competition.

Germany and Japan were banned from participating in the 1948 Olympic Games for their roles in World War II. Afghanistan was banned in 2000 because of the Taliban's discrimination against women, and South Korea was pressured by the IOC to enact democratic reforms before it hosted the 1988 games.

Should Communist China, which places no value on human life or freedom, be allowed to host the 2022 games? Absolutely not. Doing so will threaten the safety of athletes and attendees and financially reward the dictatorship responsible for its genocide against its Muslim population.

My colleague from Massachusetts, Senator MARKEY, and I introduced a bi-

partisan resolution calling on the International Olympic Committee to rebid the 2022 games to a country that recognizes and respects human rights. This isn't about a boycott. I am absolutely opposed to a boycott, and it is not about politics. This is a fight about human rights, which transcends politics.

Moving the Olympic Games out of Communist China doesn't hurt athletes. It keeps them safe from Communist China's oppression. Last year, the world watched while Communist China pressured the NBA to censor themselves over one tweet supporting Hong Kong citizens who were fighting for their freedom. We saw the NBA cower to Communist China's wishes. They even prohibited athletes who were in China at the time from speaking with reporters.

If Communist China has the ability to censor the NBA, an American organization, from speaking anything about anything that may offend General Secretary Xi, what will they do to athletes around the world? Will this regime start censoring or restricting participating athletes? What about the press? Will their broadcasts be censored to appease General Secretary Xi?

We have to open our eyes to this threat, and we have to stand against the genocide of the Uighurs and the political oppression of Hongkongers. We also have to consider the safety of athletes and spectators from all over the world. For the hundreds of millions who will watch the games, we must again lead by example and refuse to give Communist China a platform to whitewash its crimes.

I stand with the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong, the historically persecuted people of Tibet, the peaceful community of Chinese Muslims, including Uighurs, Falun Gong, and the journalists and political dissidents in China. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in demanding that the IOC rebid the 2022 Olympic Games should China fail to abandon its indefensible course.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 526. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me first say that I want to be clear that my opposition that I will announce briefly to moving this resolution by UC today is not by any means because I disagree with the assessment of China's abhorrent human rights record or the importance of the Olympics living up to the highest standards of upholding human

dignity. The Olympic Charter states that the goal of Olympism is to promote “a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.” Beijing has not, by a long shot, earned the honor of hosting the 2022 games.

Now, my record is crystal clear when it comes to calling out and condemning China’s horrific record on human rights and the threat it poses to the United States and the rest of the international community. As my colleagues know, during my years in Congress, I have introduced, advocated for, and helped pass legislation on behalf of the people of Xinjiang, Tibet, Chinese civil society dissidents, a democratic and autonomous Hong Kong, and supporting democracy across the Indo-Pacific region. Just recently, I introduced a comprehensive bill to strengthen the United States across various sectors to best confront and counter China’s efforts. I also recently released a report about the necessity of standing up against China’s dangerous new digital authoritarianism.

There is no question that under Xi Jinping, China has taken a great leap backward on human rights, establishing concentration camps in Xinjiang, and instituting a surveillance state that not even George Orwell could have imagined and crushing any thoughts and ideas that deviate from the dictates of the party. China’s rise, bringing hundreds of millions out of poverty during the last century, is something the Chinese people can be justly proud of. But Xi Jinping’s dystopian totalitarian vision, currently crushing the Chinese people, is one of the century’s great tragedies.

So I am very sympathetic to the goals of the resolution and the sponsor of the legislation. However, I believe these issues merit serious discussion in drafting of the appropriate language before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I have been urging Chairman RISC to hold a legislative markup for months to discuss the many pressing pieces of legislation that Members on both sides of the aisle have had pending for many months.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 549

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I would, in response to the Senator’s request, say that there is a human rights crisis much closer to home that we have discussed before the committee. We have an opportunity to address people suffering from a dictatorship who are right here in the United States, many of whom live in Senator SCOTT’s State of Florida.

For the second time in 2 weeks, I would like to call upon this body to take up legislation the House has passed that would designate Venezuelans for temporary protected status. I am asking Republicans to remember that there was a time before President Trump when our Nation stood in solidarity with victims of dictatorship.

Nicolas Maduro is a dictator, plain and simple. His regime is a cruel,

criminal cabal that has destroyed Venezuela. Some 200,000 Venezuelans currently live in the United States without legal status. They are unable to safely return to their homeland, and they would benefit from temporary protected status. I believe we have to do the right thing. We have to uphold American values and offer them protection.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 549 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have no problem with asking unanimous consent at this point to pass the legislation with a few amendments. Since this will not be going through committee, we ought to, like you say, examine the legislation and think about what it involves. I think having a few commonsense amendments would make sense.

It is about 200,000 or 270,000 Venezuelans. I think we can accommodate them. We are a big, great country, and America has room for them. We should make sure, though, that they don’t overburden the welfare system, and there should be rules that people, as part of this program, do not come to the country to receive welfare. That is my first amendment.

My second amendment would say that at the end of the 18-month period, Congress should vote on whether or not to extend the period. In the past, we have granted this temporary status, and it has been renewed decade after decade and become just sort of this lost zone for people for whom we can’t figure out a permanent solution.

My third amendment would actually create an ability to absorb more people in our country and would be more of a permanent solution. My third amendment is called the BELIEVE Act, and it is a bill that I have had out there for several years. What it would do is to take the merit-based employment in our country, employment-based visas, and double these visas. So, if you want to accommodate the 200-some-odd thousand Venezuelans, we need more green cards, ultimately, for permanent status. This would be increased employment-based visas.

So, my unanimous consent request would be to pass your bill with these three amendments: One, to prohibit welfare; two, to make it Congress’s prerogative to decide that this term needs to be extended and it would have to be a vote by this body; and then the third thing would be that we expand our employment-based visas in order to accommodate folks like this in our country.

I would ask unanimous consent that your bill be passed, and, also, including my three amendments to the bill, and at this point, I ask unanimous consent for that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object to this modification, on these three amendments, I respect my colleague who sits on the Foreign Relations Committee. We don’t always agree, but I always respectfully listen to him.

This effort that I am trying to bring to the floor, in line with Senator SCOTT’s question about human rights in China, is human rights right here in our hemisphere. The amendments that the Senator proposes seeks to basically gut the existing statute for temporary protected status, and it distracts from other issues in our immigration system as a price for providing Venezuelans with temporary protection in our country. One of these amendments is aimed at making it nearly impossible to renew TPS for foreign nationals, no matter the country or the conditions in the country.

I would also note that this is at a time in which we have 131,000 with temporary protected status from other countries helping to support the Nation as essential workers. So I object to the modification, and I object to Senator SCOTT’s motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to both requests.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I voice my objection to the original motion of Senator MENENDEZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the request.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, first, as you would expect, I am disappointed in two ways.

No. 1, I am disappointed that we couldn’t get a resolution done that dealt with what is going on in China.

I would love the process to work perfectly so that everybody would do things in proper order, but the resolution is pretty simple. We know all the bad things that are happening in China, and we need to stand up. We have a chance now, not in 6 months, not in—I don’t know what time it would take to go through the Foreign Relations Committee, but we ought to be standing up now to say that the IOC needs to move the Olympics. So I am very disappointed that my colleague is not willing to just go along with a simple resolution to do that.

No. 2, what my colleague knows is that the bill he is proposing would never get done. I have colleagues who want to reform and fix the TPS program. I worked with my colleagues—all 53 Republican colleagues—and they said that as long as we do a commonsense reform of the TPS program, we would go ahead and do TPS for Venezuelans. So that is a bill we could do today.