

spending bill was going to get us more jobs.

Economists' projections of our economy just keep going lower and lower and lower. Now the experts are predicting a recession. A recession is when the economy shrinks for 6 months. We are already halfway there. In the first 3 months of this year, the economy did shrink. Why? Well, because of inflation.

As former Obama economic adviser Austan Goolsbee said on Friday, it is an awful situation. Oh, yes, it is. High inflation is going to lead to higher interest rates, which will slow down our economy even more.

Last week, the Federal Reserve issued the biggest hike in interest rates in 22 years. The Fed also indicated that it is just the beginning; we are going to have more rate hikes coming. This will slow down the economy even further.

And on top of all this, this may be too little, too late by an administration that is very slow on the trigger. The damage of inflation has been done. The average American family today is paying \$100 a week more just to buy the same things that they bought last year. That is \$5,200 a year more this year than last year because of the way Joe Biden has mishandled and mismanaged our American economy.

Prices are going up. Interest rates are going up. The economy is slowing down. What is Joe Biden going to do? Regrettably, he is trying to double down.

So to the senior Senator from Illinois, the midterm elections, as he said, will be about inflation and will be about the crisis and the chaos at the southern border, whether the Senator likes it or not.

The American people are suffering. They feel stuck. They feel stressed. They feel squeezed. They are begging and pleading with Democrats in Washington: Stop the reckless spending. Unleash American energy. We have plenty of it in the ground. Let us get it out and bring this Democrat inflation nightmare to an end.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NOMINATION OF JULIA RUTH GORDON

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the nomination of Julia Gordon to serve as HUD Assistant Secretary and Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, or FHA.

First, some context. Under President Biden, inflation has risen to an astounding 40-year high, as we all know and as we are reminded every day by prices all around us. But inflation isn't

the only thing rising under President Biden's watch; so is violent crime. Many cities across the country saw a rise in murders last year, continuing a surge in the national homicide rate to its highest level in over two decades.

We are facing a crimewave, and how have our local Democratic leaders responded? Well, often, we have radical prosecutors who recommended lenient sentences for violent felons. Some are even declining to prosecute whole categories of offenses. Some States have adopted so-called bail reform that is designed to keep offenders from jail entirely. And we can't forget the Democrat efforts to defund the police.

Police have been vilified for easily 2 years now, and what has been the result? Shootings, assaults, and killings of police officers have been on the rise since 2020. Budget cuts have forced veteran police officers into retirement. Municipalities are having real trouble finding new police recruits and, in many cases, keeping the police they currently have on their force.

We should be doing everything we can to support the police who risk their lives to keep us safe.

Despite these terrible developments, the administration has repeatedly nominated individuals with these strong anti-police views. Consider some examples. There is Federal district court judge Nusrat Choudhury, an ACLU lawyer who falsely claimed that "cops kill unarmed Black men in America every single day." When Senator KENNEDY confronted her 2 weeks ago about this demonstrably false anti-police statement, she defended it as "rhetorical advocacy." In addition, multiple Biden administration nominees have expressed support for defunding the police, including HUD nominee Solomon Greene and Kristen Clarke and Vanita Gupta.

With National Police Week starting this Sunday, what a terrible message the Senate is sending to law enforcement by having voted yesterday to confirm Lisa Cook for the Federal Reserve. Professor Cook publicly called for the firing of a professor—a colleague of hers—because he dared to criticize the "defund the police" movement. She actually encouraged donations to the very bail funds that were helping criminals get out of jail during the riots after George Floyd was killed. She also insulted U.S. police officers by comparing their actions to the "heavy-handed tactics" of the Russian police.

Now, to make matters worse, the Senate is being asked to confirm Julia Gordon for FHA Commissioner. Ms. Gordon has a history of very troubling statements denigrating the police. Among other things, she retweeted an inflammatory post that described police officers as "the people killing us." That is how she describes the police.

She also suggested in a letter that she wrote—not a tweet or retweet, a letter she wrote—that cases of police violence are not just outliers but "stem from flawed and biased systems

that require structural change." Ms. Gordon's insinuation that the institution of policing itself requires structural change because police officers are racist—that idea is offensive and, in my view, should disqualify her from holding a senior position in the Federal Government, and that view is shared by the National Sheriffs' Association, a leading law enforcement group which has publicly opposed her nomination.

Ms. Gordon has also spread caustic rhetoric about her fellow Americans residing in Southern States. She retweeted an article that asserted that the South "has rejected nearly everything that's good about this country and has become one big nuclear waste site of choleric, and extremely racialized, resentment."

She has repeatedly disparaged elected Republican officials, including our colleagues Senator GRAHAM and Senator PAUL and former Vice President Pence. Having spread such partisan views, it is hard to imagine her working cooperatively with both parties in Congress to help all American households.

Unfortunately, we don't know the full extent of Ms. Gordon's public statements because she deleted some of her previously public tweets before being nominated. I asked her to try to recover her deleted tweets from Twitter because that is possible, but she refused to comply with this very reasonable request. It kind of makes you wonder, what does she have to hide?

During the nomination process, Ms. Gordon has tried to walk back her past statements, but I think we should focus on what she said before she was nominated and needed the Senate's approval.

I am reminded of something that the poet Maya Angelou said:

When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.

That is good advice when it comes to nominees, especially Ms. Gordon.

If Ms. Gordon's anti-police views and hostility toward one of our two political parties are not sufficient for some of my colleagues to oppose her, I urge them to look at her record on housing policy.

Despite record home and rental prices, Ms. Gordon advocates for throwing more taxpayer money at the housing market despite the fact that it is government intervention that has caused the massive inflation we have seen or a large part of the massive inflation we have seen in the housing market.

As we prepare to start National Police Week this Sunday, I urge my colleagues: Stand up for law enforcement by opposing Julia Gordon.

I ask President Biden to nominate a less radical nominee, someone who supports the police, someone who can garner bipartisan support and who won't exacerbate rising housing costs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to complete my remarks before the vote.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to support Julia Gordon, who is very, very qualified.

There is a pattern of Republicans blocking very qualified women in this body—very qualified women nominees for all kinds of jobs. We see it night after night after night. I could cite lots of examples. They will say, “Well, we support women for jobs that aren’t quite as important,” but these really key, extraordinarily important jobs—the Federal Reserve, FHFA, the Ex-Im Bank, certainly this job at HUD—we know—we can read between the lines. Let’s just leave it at that.

Ms. Gordon made clear that she doesn’t support defunding the police. People have done all kinds of things on social media on both sides, left and right. We can make all our decisions based on something somebody retweeted, but it is not the way to run a government. We know that.

I urge my colleagues to support Ms. Gordon, who is highly qualified—decades of experience—and has broad support from the Mortgage Bankers Association, the Manufactured Housing Institute, and Habitat for Humanity. Her support is bipartisan. Brian Montgomery, FHA Commissioner under George W. Bush and HUD’s Deputy Secretary under Donald Trump, wrote in support.

Ms. Gordon served as president of the National Community Stabilization Trust, the nonprofit that supports neighborhood revitalization and affordable home ownership. Before that, she served as the manager of the single-family policy team at the Federal Housing Finance Agency, FHFA, working to help families stay in their homes.

She has devoted her life to housing. She has helped people get an opportunity to live decent lives in clean, affordable, safe housing.

She has led a whole team of policy analysts overseeing all aspects of single-family mortgage policy at Fannie and Freddie. Hundreds of thousands of homeowners and seniors with FHA loans and reverse mortgages are at risk of losing their homes, either because they are falling behind or they are exiting forbearance. At this critical time, we need her on the job immediately.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee thought it important to delay, delay, delay, to slow-walk, slow-walk, slow-walk, to boycott, boycott, boycott. The Presiding Officer today has seen it up close as a member of that committee.

Her breadth of experience will help her work with a variety of stakeholders to design policies across the Office of Housing that will strengthen families and communities and help us bring down the cost of housing.

I urge my colleagues to confirm Julia Gordon today. Let’s do our jobs. Let’s focus on the results Americans care about and expect from their public servants.

WOMEN’S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of keeping Roe v. Wade, the legislation that the Senate failed to pass earlier today. I will enter my remarks in the RECORD. I just want to highlight a couple of things that we don’t want MITCH MCCONNELL, we don’t want Governor DeWine in my State making personal health decisions for Ohio.

I want Ohio women to make those decisions. I certainly don’t want the State legislature in my State making those decisions, when these decisions are the most personal decision that a woman and perhaps her religious counselor, perhaps her doctor—her doctor and her partner should be making those decisions.

Men often don’t understand how women’s bodies work and how preventive care like birth control works. This is not just about Roe. This ruling would open the door to all kinds of other government interference into people’s most personal, private decisions.

I would—and I have seen—a State legislator in Ohio said if a woman is raped and gets pregnant, there is an opportunity for that woman. That was said by sort of a typical far-right legislator in Ohio, and she is one of the leaders in the next step—what they are going to do on issues of women’s health in my State legislature. It is important we act.

I know there are other things we are going to do in this body, and I will support those efforts to make sure that women—not MITCH MCCONNELL and Mike DeWine—make decisions about women’s health.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON GORDON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gordon nomination?

Mr. BROWN. 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.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 172 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Durbin	Luján
Bennet	Feinstein	Manchin
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Markey
Booker	Hassan	Menendez
Brown	Heinrich	Merkley
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Cardin	Hirono	Murray
Carper	Kaine	Ossoff
Casey	Kelly	Padilla
Coons	King	Peters
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Reed
Duckworth	Leahy	Rosen

Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema

Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoehn	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

(Ms. SMITH assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50.

The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the nomination is confirmed.

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 actions.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Philip Nathan Jefferson, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2022.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 1 minute prior to the vote.

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

NOMINATION OF PHILIP NATHAN JEFFERSON

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to vote for Dr. Philip Jefferson.

Dr. Philip Jefferson is one of the country’s leading thinkers on the economics of poverty, and he will be a key voice on the Fed as it tackles inflation. He is the vice president for academic affairs, dean of faculty, and a Paul B. Freeland professor of economics at Davidson College. He will serve alongside Dr. Cook. It will mark the first time ever that two Black Governors will have served on the Board at the same time. Dr. Jefferson grew up here in Washington in the shadow of RFK Stadium. His first job out of school was to work at the Federal Reserve. He literally wrote the book on the economics of poverty.

He was voted out by the presiding officers of my Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, unanimously, on a strong bipartisan vote. He will fiercely guard the Fed’s independence.

I urge my colleagues to vote for Dr. Philip Jefferson for the Federal Reserve.