

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 968.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Julianna Michelle Childs, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam 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 bill 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 Executive Calendar No. 968, Julianna Michelle Childs, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Mark R. Warner, Edward J. Markey, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Jeanne Shaheen, Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan.

Mr. DURBIN. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, July 11, be waived.

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

The Senator from Iowa.

HUNTER BIDEN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, on May 9 of this year, Senator JOHNSON and I wrote to David Weiss, the U.S. attorney for the District of Delaware. Now, he happens to be in charge of the Hunter Biden criminal case. In that letter, we asked Mr. Weiss a series of threshold questions that Attorney General Garland has repeatedly failed to answer.

First, we asked whether Nicholas McQuaid is recused from the Hunter Biden case. As we have said publicly many times, McQuaid is conflicted because he worked with Hunter Biden's criminal attorney before he was hired as a top position in President Biden's Justice Department.

Second, we asked Mr. Weiss whether he or any of his employees have had any communications with McQuaid.

Third, we asked Mr. Weiss whether any of his employees, not just Mr. McQuaid, are recused from the Hunter Biden case.

We asked these questions because the Biden family is from Delaware and has extensive political connections. Notably, Hunter Biden told his business partners:

I'll bring suit in the Chancery Court in Delaware—which as you know is my home state and I'm privileged to have worked with and know every judge in the Chancery Court.

Does the Biden family have connections to anyone in Mr. Weiss's office? That seems to be a very fair question.

With respect to those three questions, Mr. Weiss didn't even try to answer. In fact, the Attorney General jumped in and answered on behalf of U.S. Attorney Weiss. But calling the Attorney General's letter an answer is an overstatement. It was another non-answer—essentially just words on a piece of paper that didn't say anything worthwhile.

So Senator JOHNSON and I also asked Mr. Weiss if he has received sufficient resources and support from the Justice Department to properly handle the Hunter Biden case.

Again, no answers.

One would think that the Department, and specifically Mr. Weiss, would want to tell Congress and the American public that the answer to that question is yes. The failure of Mr. Weiss to answer that very important question adds to the growing concern and public concern that the Justice Department is pulling the punches on the Hunter Biden case.

We also asked Mr. Weiss whether he has discussed the need for a special counsel or an independent counsel to properly investigate the Hunter Biden case.

Again, no answer.

The last question is more relevant today than when it was asked because the other week a voicemail was released reportedly from Joe Biden to Hunter Biden. In it, Joe Biden repeatedly left a message about a New York Times article that involved Hunter Biden's dealings with Ye Jianming. That business associate is closely connected to the communist Chinese regime.

Joe Biden told his son: "I think you're clear."

Well, that message appears to show that Joe Biden was aware of Hunter Biden's business deals and relationships. So the White House strategy for the President to continue to deny knowledge of these business relationships falls very flat.

On July 30, 2021, and on June 28, 2022, Senator JOHNSON and I wrote to the White House counsel. We wrote about then-Vice President Biden's use of non-government email to transmit government information to Hunter Biden. The White House counsel's office refuses to answer whether President Biden still communicates government business to Hunter Biden, among other questions that we posed.

So what do we get? More stonewalling.

Most recently, on July 7, this year, Senator JOHNSON and I wrote to the Attorney General, FBI Director, and U.S. Attorney Weiss. In our letter, we asked again about recusals of Hunter Biden's case. We also noted that recent report-

ing on Hunter Biden showed more connections between him and foreign nationals—this time, Russians and Ukrainians. Those additional links further support my and Senator JOHNSON's conclusion in our September 2020 Biden report that Hunter Biden's activity causes criminal, counterintelligence, and extortion concerns.

At the time, our findings were ignored or falsely labeled Russian disinformation by Democrats and by liberal media. We gave floor speeches on March 28, this year, March 29, this year, April 5, that introduced bank records connecting Hunter and James Biden to the communist Chinese regime. The same connections that we made in our 2020 report. Those bank records have proven to be authentic and, hence, aren't Russian disinformation.

For years, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle levied complaints against the Trump administration's Justice Department for the lack of transparency. Now, why aren't those same Democrat colleagues raising this concern about this administration not showing the proper transparency?

Congress has a constitutional responsibility to ensure the proper execution of, and compliance with, conflicts of interest laws and regulations. The failure of the Justice Department to comply with these rules will cause political infection to run rampant. And, of course, that will rot the core of the Justice Department and cast a cloud over everything that the Department of Justice does.

As I have said before, the Justice Department's failure to be transparent with the Hunter Biden criminal case and recusals related to it has cast a cloud over that investigation. So I ask: What is the Justice Department trying to hide?

The American people's concern about how the case has been managed, these concerns are very legitimate.

To Attorney General Garland, to Wray, and to Mr. Weiss, I strongly urge you to clear the cloud sooner rather than later.

HIGHLAND PARK SHOOTING

Madam President, on another matter, I want to say a few words—I suppose too few words—about the tragedy that happened at Highland Park on July Fourth where seven souls lost their lives. On that day, a disturbed and troubled young man opened fire from a rooftop at crowds below who were attending that Fourth of July parade event.

Like many disturbed men before him, there was a long trail of warning signs. Police and prosecutors contacted him twice in 2019 when he was still a teen, including when he attempted suicide. We shouldn't bear to see these predictable signs anymore. I ask again this Congress to pass my EAGLES Act of 2021. This bill provides the proper training to recognize the signs of a person mobilizing to do violence and then give the opportunity to intercede before these bad acts take place.

There is a pattern to these tragedies, and we need to pass the EAGLES Act to make sure more people are aware of how to identify these young men and get them the help they need before we have another tragedy.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Madam President, on another matter, I had the privilege of spending time meeting with Iowa law enforcement during a recent break when the Congress was not in session. I met with them to hear directly what they are facing on the ground. I asked what support they needed from Congress and what challenges these people are facing.

Law enforcement faces too many problems, and we need to understand more how that affects their work and their morale. Do you know what I heard from these people? That recruiting new officers and retaining their current officers is a harder job for the chiefs to do than ever. In part, this is because young people are being told by leaders, even Members of Congress, that being in law enforcement is not an honorable profession. They are hearing that it isn't a career worth pursuing.

These Iowa officers asked me to speak with my fellow legislators to stop that kind of nonsense talk, and they happen to be right when they give us that advice, that we ought to honor the policemen today and law enforcement generally. There is no greater love than for a man to lay down his life for his community, and that sacrifice of personal safety for the well-being of others is what law enforcement embodies every day.

Recruiting and retaining good officers is also hard because of the increase in ambush attacks on law enforcement. Not only are citizens much less cooperative when dealing with law enforcement, but some are actually intentionally targeting and murdering our law enforcement personnel. Twenty twenty-one was the most dangerous year to be a law enforcement officer in the last two decades. Many officers in Iowa aren't volunteering for overtime anymore because it is too dangerous.

An ambush attack like this happened a few weeks ago in Los Angeles. Two officers responded to reports of a stabbing. When they knocked on the door, they were shot and killed by a gang member who was out on probation. He should have been already in jail, but he caught a huge break from progressive prosecutors in that city.

That wasn't the first time an officer was killed by a gang member in Los Angeles this year. This type of tragedy is getting replayed over and over again throughout the country, but we simply don't have good data on gang violence and on assaults on law enforcement, so we don't know the exact number of gang killings of policemen.

We need more data, which is why I am working on two pieces of legislation to improve data collection on both gang violence and assaults on law enforcement. The Senate Judiciary Com-

mittee will have a hearing on attacks on police to discuss these issues. I look forward to having it during that period. I hope my colleagues will stay on target and focus on the violence these brave men and women face and not use this as a forum to chastise police. We cannot wait any longer to talk about this issue and the effects it is having on our communities.

HONORING SERGEANT JOHN WILLIAMS AND DEPUTY SHERIFF AUSTIN "MELVIN" RICHARDSON

Madam President, while I am addressing this issue, I have some related and tragic news. Once again we in Iowa have a heavy heart as I recognize two Iowa officers who recently died in the line of duty.

Sergeant John Williams of the Coralville Police Department died from a medical issue while he was on patrol July 3. He was described by those who knew him as "an extraordinary officer, a friend, and a neighbor" and also a "fantastic family man and a true public servant." He was a fixture in the community as a 28-year veteran of the force, the longest serving sergeant with the Coralville Police Department—a department which said that Sergeant Williams' "knowledge, experience, and leadership will be near-impossible to replace."

Deputy Sheriff Austin "Melvin" Richardson perished on June 14 in a traffic collision. Deputy Richardson was a dedicated public servant in law enforcement for 15 years. He was an officer for Sidney, IA, and then joined the Fremont County Sheriff's Office in 2015, where he faithfully served since. Deputy Richardson truly fulfilled the meaning of a public servant. He was not only a member of law enforcement but also a volunteer firefighter for Percival and Sidney. He was described as a "staple" in the community, and he will be deeply missed.

Sergeant Williams is survived by his wife Kim; his four children: Brandon, Benjamin, Sarah, and Rebekah; as well as six grandchildren: Noah, Elijah, Elsa Adalyn, Kalliope, and Emma.

Deputy Richardson will be left behind by his wife Jennifer and three daughters, Bryxtol, Cheyenne, and Everly.

I say to all of them: Your sacrifice is honored and appreciated in your community and by your country. We thank you all.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Madam President, on to my last statement, it wasn't too long ago I came to the Senate floor to talk about the dangers of bad blue city policies, ideas like defunding and degrading the police, progressive prosecutors, and bail reform. These policies are dangerous for our citizens, our children, and our communities.

Well, a few weeks later, I am up here again with an update. Americans agreed with those statements I have made. Americans are concerned about the nationwide rise in violent crime, and they don't trust politicians who allow crime to continue. I don't blame

them, and most Americans don't blame them for being upset.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul was forced to change bail laws to allow judges to set bail for more repeat offenders and those accused of gun crimes. About 66 percent of the registered voters in New York overwhelmingly support that change that took place in New York. Why wouldn't they? Keeping dangerous criminals away from the innocent public makes our communities safer, and New Yorkers now know that and probably did always know it.

Across the country, in San Francisco of all places, another referendum on safety happened. Voters there recalled their progressive prosecutor, Chesa Boudin. Boudin refused to charge or prosecute certain violent crimes, like felony domestic violence. After only 2 years on the job, even liberal San Franciscans rejected his soft-on-crime approach, and he was fired. Why wouldn't they? Prosecuting dangerous criminals for the crimes they commit makes the community safer, and San Franciscans now know it.

Nationwide, it looks like Americans have cause for hope when it comes to violent crime. Compared to last year, many cities are a bit safer, but a few cities are getting worse, sadly to say. Why? Because they are still using the bad ideas that Americans are rejecting.

Homicides in Los Angeles are up compared to this time last year. Well, they have a progressive prosecutor, George Gascon.

Homicides in Washington, DC, are up. Well, we have police defunding to thank for that statistic. Now the city is trying to play catch-up to fix its mistake while their citizens are still in danger.

Homicides in Milwaukee are up. Well, they have bad bail reform policies. These policies led a dangerous man who should have been locked up run his car through a parade last year.

I will spend a few minutes focusing on bail reform.

We know that only a few hundred people commit most of the murders in any given cities. These criminals get arrested an average of 12 times. Most Americans know what logic tells us: Keeping people who commit crimes off the streets increases public safety. It seems pretty simple to me. If most crimes are committed by a small group of individuals who commit crimes over and over again and we can keep these repeat offenders away from innocent people, innocent Americans, then we should do just that. The best way to do this is through effective bail policies. The Federal bail system assesses the risk to society posed by the individual who is arrested. States would do well to mirror the Federal system.

Americans are paying the price for bad policies that they don't want. It is time to stop these terrible, progressive blue city ideas to make Americans safe again.

I yield the floor.