

was when China was truly concerned about making a positive impression across the world.

Lastly, and most importantly, to all America's athletes, don't forget this: Your country is behind you. By boycotting the Olympics, our government is shining a light on the CCP's abuse of its citizens and its disregard for the rest of the world, but by competing in the Olympics, our athletes are showing what a free people from an open society are capable of. Now, remember, the Olympics have long been a forum for American victory at the expense of authoritarians' pride. They were an early front in the war against fascism.

Jesse Owens won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, while Hitler looked on, humiliated, his delusion of Aryan superiority burst. When Owens stood on the podium after winning the long jump, he was surrounded by Sieg Heils, but he stood taller and he stood higher than all of them, saluting Old Glory.

But it was Cornelius "Corny" Johnson who was the first Black American to earn gold in Berlin, winning the high jump. The silver went to Dave Albritton, another American, who was also Black. Delos Thurbur, yet another American, won the bronze. Hitler refused to meet with them or to congratulate any of them.

When they took the podium, all three offered their own protest to the dictator—the Bellamy salute; the palm-out salute of the American flag named for Francis Bellamy, the author of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Olympics were a battleground in the Cold War as well.

In 1980, the unheralded and ragtag American hockey team upset the four-time gold medal-winning Soviets. Two days later, they defeated Finland and won the gold.

Russia had just invaded Afghanistan. America's economy was in recession. The victory not only shocked the world, it lifted our Nation and sunk the Soviet's spirits. The Russian hockey players didn't even bother to have their silver medals engraved; they were so angry about losing to America.

Now, in 2022, another act in a global power competition will take place at the Olympics. We have seen it unfold in recent days. America and the free West against the communist Chinese Government. It is part of the contest that will define this century—show the CCP that the future belongs to the free; that authoritarian governments always fail the people trapped under them.

Win. Make Xi Jinping and the Chinese authorities hear the "Star-Spangled Banner" and see the Stars and Stripes again and again and again.

We are cheering you on and will be waiting for you when you come home decorated in gold. Good luck to Team USA, and God bless America.

I yield the floor.

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

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, we have a true crisis at our southern border. Those in Washington who refuse to use the word "crisis" to describe the humanitarian and security challenges must accept the disastrous consequences of an open-border policy.

Just look at the numbers from the Department of Homeland Security. More than 2 million illegal immigrants were caught attempting to cross the border last year, and if the Biden administration doesn't get serious about securing the border, we are on pace to repeat or exceed this troubling figure in 2022. In December, 178,840 illegal immigrants were apprehended attempting to cross along this stretch of the border, making it the highest total for that month in Department of Homeland Security history.

I have been here before describing this chaos, but the reality is, it continues to escalate while the administration refuses to take action to stop illegal immigration.

Unsurprisingly, we are seeing the tensions between the Biden administration and Border Patrol officials boil over. These men and women have answered the call to protect and serve. They put their lives at risk to enforce the law and arrest people illegally crossing the border, only to have the administration approve the release of the very criminals the officers locked up. This betrayal by the administration is creating low morale, with some Border Patrol officers choosing to leave the job rather than support this lawlessness and insanity.

Instead of preventing illegal drugs from entering our country, border agents are spending time processing paperwork for illegal immigrants.

Do you know who else is seeing this paperwork? TSA agents. The Department of Homeland Security is allowing these lawbreakers to board airplanes using their Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrest warrants as identification at TSA checkpoints. This is totally absurd. It is a reckless policy that threatens the safety of air travelers and all citizens. The administration must end this practice.

The message coming from the White House is: Our southern borders are open. All are welcome.

This has been a green light for immigrants since day one. It started with migrant numbers increasing along the southern border as they awaited Biden's immigration action, and now we see the result. We have experienced record border crossings, overflowing detention centers, and the release of single adult migrants into the United States, among many other many problems. That is how it is going.

It is not just citizens from Central America and Mexico who are taking advantage of this foolish generosity; people from Syria, Turkey, Russia, Pakistan, Cuba, Haiti, and India are illegally entering the United States along the southern border.

I have been here before on the Senate floor sounding the alarm about the threat this dangerous and indefensible approach to immigration and border security is having on our country. It is threatening our sovereignty and undermining the rule of law.

Instead of implementing common-sense steps to secure the border, the administration has prioritized "border czar" Vice President HARRIS's mission to discover the "root causes" of this crisis while the number of illegal immigrants entering our country is reaching historic levels.

The reality is, this truly is a crisis of the Biden administration's own making. The President reversed policies that were curbing illegal immigration, like the construction of a border wall and the "Remain in Mexico" policy.

We must provide Border Patrol agents with the tools and resources to successfully accomplish their job. That involves enforcing the laws and holding illegal immigrants accountable for their unlawful actions, not helping them board airplanes to travel around the country.

This is a matter of national security. My GOP colleagues and I are ready to get back to the effective strategies we had for controlling the border under President Trump, and it is time President Biden gets on board.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Chantale Yokmin Wong, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

VOTE ON WONG NOMINATION

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

Ms. BALDWIN. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 42 Ex.]

YEAS—66

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|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Grassley | Portman |
| Bennet | Hassan | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Heinrich | Risch |
| Blunt | Hickenlooper | Romney |
| Booker | Hirono | Rosen |
| Brown | Kaine | Sanders |
| Burr | Kelly | Schatz |
| Cantwell | King | Schumer |
| Capito | Klobuchar | Shaheen |
| Cardin | Leahy | Sinema |
| Carper | Lummis | Smith |
| Casey | Manchin | Stabenow |
| Collins | Markey | Tester |
| Coons | McConnell | Thune |
| Cornyn | Menendez | Tillis |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Van Hollen |
| Crapo | Murkowski | Warner |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warnock |
| Durbin | Murray | Warren |
| Feinstein | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Wyden |
| Graham | Peters | Young |

NAYS—31

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|-----------|------------|------------|
| Blackburn | Hawley | Rubio |
| Boozman | Hoeven | Sasse |
| Braun | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Inhofe | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cramer | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Cruz | Lankford | Toomey |
| Daines | Lee | Tuberville |
| Ernst | Marshall | Wicker |
| Fischer | Moran | |
| Hagerty | Paul | |

NOT VOTING—3

| | | |
|----------|-------|--------|
| Barrasso | Luján | Rounds |
|----------|-------|--------|

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 705.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Max Vekich, of Washington,

to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 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 Executive Calendar No. 705, Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Maria Cantwell, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, John W. Hickenlooper, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, Jack Reed, Thomas R. Carper, Cory A. Booker.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, February 8, be waived.

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

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Financing being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on Finance from further consideration of the nomination of Sam Bagenstos to be General Counsel to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to discharge be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, notwithstanding rule XXII.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we have had so much good news in Ohio and across the country over the last few weeks—rising wages, record job growth, a million jobs in 2 months.

Intel is bringing 10,000 new good-paying manufacturing and trades jobs to Central Ohio. That facility will be built by union workers—electricians, carpenters, laborers, pipefitters, and other workers of the skilled trades.

Hyperion, a fuel manufacturer, is opening the largest factory built in Columbus in a decade, creating 700 jobs.

GE Aviation with Boeing signed a new deal exporting planes built with

next-generation jet engines developed in Southwest Ohio, supporting thousands of Ohio jobs.

As I was flying into Columbus with Senator PORTMAN a couple of weeks ago to join Intel to announce those jobs, I was thinking: Today we are finally burying the term “rust belt.”

For too long, corporate elites on the coast have used that outdated, offensive term—a term that demeans our workers and devalues our work. Now Ohio—the center of the country, the heart of the industrial Midwest—leads the way in the next generation of manufacturing.

The State that founded the auto industry and gave us the Wright Brothers is today making the most advanced chips that go into cars and phones and appliances.

All of this is made possible because we are putting American workers at the center of our economy. It is not a coincidence we are seeing this record job growth, when we finally have a President who understands what carrying a union card means, who centers workers, who cares about wages, who comes from the industrial heartland—a union card that means better wages, a union card that means better benefits, a union card that often means a more flexible work schedule that workers have a decision and input into forming.

And look at the results we are getting. Last year, for the first time in 20 years, our economy grew faster than China. Think about that. For the first time in two decades, the American economy grew faster than China's economy.

We know that China and other competitors aren't giving up. They are, every week, trying to find new ways to cheat, new ways to undermine American jobs.

We need every possible tool to compete. It is why last year in the Senate we passed the Innovation and Competition Act. We passed what we are now calling the Make it in America Act. It is a serious effort to invest in manufacturing research and development and bring and build supply chains back in the United States.

It is going to mean jobs. It is going to bring down prices. For too long, we have had a trade policy and a tax policy lobbied in this body by corporate interests that wanted to move overseas for cheap labor. We have had a trade and tax policy that essentially hollowed out manufacturing in Ohio and across the Midwest. Ohioans know what permanent normal trade relations with China 20 years ago when Congress passed it—to be asked of corporate America and pushed by people like Newt Gingrich—people know what that did to our economy. Almost everyone knows the devastation the North American Free Trade Agreement caused to industrial towns in Ohio and across the country.

PNTR and admitting China to the WTO hasn't gotten the same media attention, but Ohio steel companies and