

investigation. This sort of political bias erodes trust in government and prevents the equal application of the law as required by the Constitution.

I have also asked them about allegations that the FBI used false claims of Russian disinformation to bury potential criminal investigations about Hunter and James Biden. Also, I asked them about allegations regarding specific records within the Department's possession relating to potential criminal conduct by the Bidens. I have asked about allegations regarding specific records that show Joe Biden may have been involved in Hunter Biden's business arrangements.

The allegations my office has received are very precise, very direct, and very consistent. Accordingly, they are highly credible. These credible allegations raise important and fundamental questions, like these questions:

Did the FBI follow normal investigative procedures to vet these claims?

Did the FBI follow the facts wherever they led, or did they improperly shut down credible leads in advance of the 2020 election?

Remember, I have been raising these questions for a long period of time. I have done it through many venues: letters, in hearings, in private calls with Agency leadership, and, like today, right here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

The Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation had plenty of opportunities to respond to all of these questions I have raised. Not once—let me emphasize: not once has the Justice Department or FBI ever substantively disputed the whistleblower allegations that I have made public. I have given Attorney General Garland and Director Wray every opportunity to put our worst fears to rest and assure the American people, as they should, that everything has been done by the book. Both Agencies have failed to do so.

Just think how simple it is to say that everything was done the right way—if they could say that. And that ought to tell you something. Even with their credibility on the line, the FBI and Justice Department have refused to cooperate when asked for basic information. So, as you know if you have been following all this stuff—and I don't expect people to have time to do that—yesterday, House Chairman COMER issued a letter accompanied by a subpoena from the House committee demanding one FBI document. Based on protected and highly credible whistleblower disclosures, the unclassified document exists, and it is allegedly referencing a criminal scheme involving then-Vice President Biden.

Notably, it is a crime to provide false information to Congress during a congressional investigation.

Most importantly, this very document was generated by the FBI themselves. It is time for the Justice Department and FBI to come clean to the American people. What did the Justice

Department and FBI do to investigate the information in the document at issue? The answer goes to the heart of whether taxpayer-funded government Agencies proceed normally or whether that Agency cuts corners.

Simply put, did the Justice Department and the FBI treat this information like they would if "We the People" were implicated, or did they sweep it under the rug to protect then-candidate Biden and now-President Biden?

If the Justice Department and FBI have any hope of redeeming their once trusted position—and that is what the American people have long held, to trust the FBI—Attorney General Garland and Director Wray must answer. Their credibility is on the line.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF LASHONDA A. HUNT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge LaShonda Hunt to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Born in Mississippi and raised on the South Side of Chicago, Judge Hunt received her bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

After working as a staff attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Judge Hunt clerked for Judge William J. Hibbler on the Northern District of Illinois. Immediately following her clerkship, Judge Hunt worked for 2 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois. In 2010, she returned to this role and served for another 5 years. As a Federal prosecutor, she handled cases involving employment discrimination, civil rights violations, healthcare fraud, and more. After leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Hunt worked for the State of Illinois in the Department of Corrections and the Department of Central Management Services. In 2017, the Seventh Circuit appointed Judge Hunt to serve as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. She has presided over approximately 22,000 bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings, about 75 of which have gone to verdict or judgement.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Hunt "well qualified," and she received a strong bipartisan vote in committee. Given her extensive experience, dedication to public service and deep knowledge of the Northern District of Illinois, Senator DUCKWORTH and I strongly support Judge Hunt. I am honored to vote for her confirmation, and I urge my colleagues join me.

VOTE ON HUNT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hunt nomination?

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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 legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	Kennedy	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Welch
Graham	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Ernst	Ricketts
Blackburn	Fischer	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hagerty	Rounds
Britt	Hawley	Rubio
Budd	Hoeben	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	Moran	Wicker
Cruz	Mullin	Young
Daines	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein	Johnson	Tuberville
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). 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 action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 Executive Calendar No. 79, Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie Hirono, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Raphael G. Warnock, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons.

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 Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeben	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein	Johnson	Tuberville
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on April 10, 1998, the governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland signed the Good Friday Agreement, giving birth to a new era of peace in Northern Ireland. On this 25th anniversary, I join my colleagues in sponsoring a resolution commemorating a historic success that marked the end of decades of conflict and that remains crucial to peace today and in the future. This resolution passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously just yesterday and will be passed shortly by the full Senate.

The recent celebration of this landmark event in Belfast brought together the three leaders of the day: Prime Minister Tony Blair, Taoiseach Bertie Ahearn, and President Bill Clinton. The highlight of that gathering was the unveiling at Queen's University of a bust of Senator George Mitchell, the architect of the Good Friday Agreement—this Chamber's former majority leader and my fellow Mainer. And I know I speak for my fellow Mainers when I say how proud we were of this extraordinary accomplishment. And we salute Senator George Mitchell on this, the 25th anniversary.

During the three decades that the Troubles plagued Northern Ireland, some 3,500 people were killed and 50,000 injured in sectarian violence. In 1996, during one of the many sporadic and ineffective ceasefires, George Mitchell, 1 year after his retirement from the Senate, stepped forward to serve as America's special envoy to Northern Ireland. He was committed, determined to forge a lasting peace. And he did.

George Mitchell approached this daunting task with the statesmanship and dedication to justice that has defined his life. For nearly 2 years, Senator Mitchell worked with unyielding energy and endless patience to bring together the many parties and conflicting interests. Despite arguments, controversies, and walkouts, the talks were held together by his leadership and by his Mitchell Principles, which, first and foremost, held that political issues must be resolved by democratic and exclusively peaceful means.

Finally, on Good Friday, 1998, 1 day and a long sleepless night after the deadline Senator Mitchell had set to complete the complex negotiations, the agreement was, in fact, reached. Six weeks later, the voters in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland endorsed the pact with overwhelming margins.

The Good Friday Agreement has been a remarkable success in meeting its primary goal of ending bloodshed and bringing sustainable peace. The resolution that I introduced with Senator MENENDEZ, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, calls upon Congress to reaffirm its steadfast support for this historic agreement and

to the principles of peaceful and democratic participation as the only way to settle political differences. And, equally important, it recognizes George Mitchell's pivotal role.

Senator George Mitchell himself defined leadership as having the wisdom to know what is right, the courage to say what is right, and the strength to do what is right. This is not merely a definition he has offered throughout an inspiring life of service but also an example he set for others.

I appreciate my colleagues' support of this resolution in his honor as we seek to commemorate this historic anniversary of the agreement that he forged—an agreement that would not have come about but for George Mitchell's endless leadership and patience.

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. MENENDEZ. 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 GEETA RAO GUPTA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in support of Dr. Gupta's nomination as Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues.

Around the world today, women's rights and fundamental freedoms are under attack. In Ukraine, an untold number of women and girls are undergoing the brutal sexual violence accompanying Putin's war. In Iran, security forces have killed female protesters in the street. In Latin America, a wave of femicides has gone unanswered. In Saudi Arabia, women still need a man's approval to marry. In Afghanistan, the Taliban are erasing women from the public sphere, denying them the right to an education or the ability to work. In China, the government has sent ethnic minority Uighurs into concentration camps, forcing Uighur women onto birth control, forcing them to have abortions, and even forcing them to be sterilized.

This has got to stop, and it is unacceptable. We cannot and must not stand idly by as such horrors continue.

One way we can fight back is by making sure U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance prioritizes the protection of women and girls in all corners of the globe.

Dr. Gupta is an excellent and well-qualified choice to lead such an effort. She would bring decades of experience working to empower women. She has fought to increase the economic security and political participation of women. She has pushed for an end of pervasive violence against women and girls.

And from her time as Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF to her work as President of the International Center for Research on Women, Dr. Gupta has demonstrated global leadership on women's issues and commitment to advancing gender equality through U.S. foreign policy efforts.