

rules of confirmation—you don't need one vote from the other side if you have the majority, and there will come a day, maybe, when we find ourselves in that situation—I always have worried that doing away with the collaborative process to get a nominee to move forward—judges or U.S. attorneys—is going to create a problem where you are down to picking people who have the most vocal support from the most active, extreme elements in both parties. And I think this is a case: Exhibit A, Ms. Rollins.

And to my colleagues, all of us are going to have to understand that I respect the home State Senators' ability to nominate district court judges. The blue slip process I will honor for district court judges, U.S. attorneys. But it puts pressure on us to up our game, and Ms. Rollins I voted against in committee, and it was obvious that our concerns were justified.

Mr. Delaney, nominated for the First Judicial Circuit, performed poorly in the committee. He represented a private school that was sued for allowing sexual harassment to be unchecked and to be covered up.

It is OK to represent unpopular causes. Everybody needs a lawyer. But his answers about how he engaged one of the plaintiffs—a minor at the time—were terrible, and it seems to me that he should have been better prepared. He had a lot of support from people in New Hampshire, some on our side of the aisle. But I guess my point is that you have to be prepared to answer hard questions, and Mr. Delaney was woefully unprepared.

And to my colleagues on the Republican side, I think you have done a very good job of asking hard, relevant questions to the nominees before our committee, and we have had a lot of bipartisan support for judges, and we have had some opposition.

As to moving forward, I hope the White House will prepare these nominees better—a basic understanding of the Constitution, of a litigant practice, basic concepts of the law, like Brady motions, and just how the Constitution is set up. That is not too much to ask the people who want to be a judge for the rest of their life.

So, to the White House, this process needs to change. You need to up your game. Your goal, I think, should be to try to find people who some of us can vote for on the Republican side and, when they get in front of the committee, make a good impression. I am not saying we did it all right on our side when we were in charge. There are probably examples where we didn't. But I tried to make sure that some people who were nominated didn't make it because some of us on the Republican side said no.

There are more than a handful of judges coming out of the committee that I think should not be on the bench, and I say that with the understanding that my inclination is to vote for judges nominated by the other side,

assuming that that is what I would like to have happen when it comes our turn—that if we all vote against the other party's judges, then you are going to put the judiciary in a world of hurt if you have a President of one party and a Senate made up of the other. And that is sort of—we will be there one day, and given the behavior of the body, I don't know how we deal with that.

But between now and then, I am hoping that there will be more serious deliberation by colleagues on the Democratic side to make sure that the people we are putting forward can answer basic questions. And sometimes, maybe, we ask bad questions, but I don't believe that the questions being asked of these nominees are unfair. And it just is stunning that people have been in the law as long as some of these nominees have and can't answer the basics.

So this idea that you are going to come through the Judiciary Committee and not be asked hard, relevant questions, I hope that has gone by the wayside. The idea that I will support Democratic nominees is real up to a point. And there have been several of us on this side who have probably voted for more Democratic nominees than we have opposed, and I would try to continue to honor the process.

I want to keep the blue slip in place. I am asking colleagues from red States to work with the White House to see if they can find consensus. When I was chairman, there was a lot of pressure on me to do away with the blue slip so we could nominate anybody we wanted to at the district court level. If you had two Democratic Senators in the State, the blue slip would go away; we could nominate anybody we wanted to.

I think that is bad for the Senate, and I think that, over time, would be bad for the judiciary. I didn't change the process; I don't want it changed now. And I do expect us on the Republican side to collaborate with the White House and find consensus where you can.

But, having said that, the last several months have sort of been a disaster for the committee in the sense that people are not prepared, and you are picking folks who really shouldn't have lifetime appointments, from my point of view. And we can pass them all on party lines and make this problem worse, or you can get a handful of Democrats to do what I have done in the past: not only vote yes but sometimes say no.

And Mr. Delaney, I think, will probably fall by the wayside. And I say that with no animosity toward him. I just think that is the right outcome here. So if that does happen, I would want to applaud the White House for understanding that sometimes you can't go beyond what the market would bear.

I have shown a disposition and a willingness to work with you, but the recent nominee we just passed is way out of the mainstream, and I am hoping

that we can get back on track and have nominees come before the committee who are prepared to make it, quite frankly, easier to find consensus. And if that doesn't happen, we are going to have less consensus. And there are a handful of nominees waiting to come to the floor whom I would vigorously oppose because I think they are not qualified.

So, with that, Mr. President, I wish you a great break and hope we can go home and do our business at home and abroad—wherever that takes us—and come back safely.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The majority leader.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as I mentioned earlier, negotiations continue making progress. As Speaker MCCARTHY says, he expects the House will vote next week if an agreement is reached, and the Senate would begin consideration after that. Members should be aware and be able to return to the Senate within a 24-hour period to fulfill our responsibilities to avoid default. But I also want to take a moment to talk about some of the work the Senate has made progress on recently in the last work period.

Over this work period, the Senate confirmed more than seven district court judges and three new circuit court judges—Bradley Garcia, Anthony Johnstone, and Nancy Abudu—confirmed earlier this afternoon to serve a lifetime appointment on the Eleventh Circuit that represents Florida, Georgia, and Alabama.

Ms. Abudu's appointment to the bench is barrier-breaking. She will be the first Black woman to preside on the Eleventh Circuit, and her circuit is home to nearly 8 million—8 million—Black Americans, including the Presiding Officer's great State.

We have a duty to ensure that Federal judges are individuals of the highest caliber, and that includes appointing judges from a wide variety of personal and professional backgrounds. Ms. Abudu meets that higher standard, and she will serve admirably on the bench.

With the confirmation of Ms. Abudu, the Senate has now confirmed 129 judges under President Biden—129.

Elsewhere, the Senate passed the bipartisan Fire Grants and Safety Act so firefighters can better afford lifesaving equipment and personnel, particularly in smaller, more rural, and more suburban areas, where the equipment is harder to find and harder to afford.

Senators also reintroduced the SAFE Banking Act to enable cannabis businesses to access critical banking structures. Just last week, the Banking Committee held its first hearing on this legislation. And I will also work to make sure we include criminal justice provisions to SAFE Banking.

Last week, the Commerce Committee moved on the bipartisan Railway Safety Act out of committee. I will work

with Senators on both sides, including Senators BROWN and VANCE, the two lead sponsors, as well as CASEY and FETTERMAN, also sponsors, to bring the Railway Safety Act for a vote soon.

I will likewise work with my colleagues on efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable, including insulin. Last week, the HELP Committee advanced significant drug reforms, and it is my hope this process will continue to move forward in a bipartisan manner and will enable us to lower the cost of prescription drugs, particularly insulin.

This work period, I joined with colleagues and committee chairs to announce the next steps in the Senate's effort to outcompete the Chinese Government and preserve America's global leadership in the 21st century. Last week, the Commerce Committee marked up bipartisan legislation on the U.S. semiconductor supply chains, and, this week, the Appropriations Committee held a bipartisan hearing on investments to outcompete the Chinese Government. The House Government Affairs Committee also marked up several bills on security and competitiveness. Our committees will continue working on various efforts on this issue during the next work period. Outcompeting the Chinese Government will be one of the great challenges of our generation, and we must be clear-eyed and act accordingly.

So this has been a busy stretch for the Senate on a number of different fronts: more judges, progress with Fire Grants, SAFE Banking, Rail Safety, competing with the Chinese Government, prescription drug reform, and a whole host of important issues.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL CASASCO

Mr. President, now I wish to thank and honor a longtime employee of the Senate Recording Studio who is retiring today after nearly four decades, Paul Casasco.

Paul, for all we know, this is your last day, but you are very diligent. You may be recording this right now. If you are, hi, Paul. We love you.

Paul is the senior audio operator for the Senate Chamber. His tenure dates back to the first days when the Senate proceedings were televised, back in 1986. Paul witnessed the history and literally made history happen by using video to expand public access to the Senate in ways we had never seen before.

From helping install the cameras here in this Chamber to operating nearly every piece of production equipment, to broadcasting everything from floor activity to committee hearings, Paul has played an essential role in broadcasting the work of the Senate to the public. In a very real way, Paul's work has given the American people a front-row seat to the Senate, allowing them to hear every word, every speech, every debate.

So, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, we thank Paul for his many years of service to this Chamber and congratulate

him on a well-earned retirement, and wish him and his family the very best.

#### TRIBUTE TO LANE BODIAN

Mr. President, one more retirement, one deeply meaningful to me—Lane Bodian, affectionately known as Corporal Bodian. I don't know why that happened, but it did. I have nicknames for a lot of the people I care about on my staff.

Lane has done an amazing, amazing job covering foreign policy for me for over a decade. He is so smart. He is so level-headed. He is so dedicated. When he comes up with ideas, I almost always say: This is exactly the right way to go.

When there is trouble brewing in foreign policy areas, Lane seems to find the best ways to try and solve those problems and ease the tensions that we have seen throughout the world.

In addition to his hard work, to his diligence, to his dedication, and to his deep intelligence and thoughtfulness, he is a nice guy. Everyone loves Lane. He is decent. He is smart. He is caring.

Lane, I know you are going on to bigger and better things. Many on my staff do after long tenures, I am happy to say. This one, I think, is 11 years or 12 years. We wish you the best. But you will always, always, always be a dear friend to the Schumer family and a member of the greater Schumer family, our staff. We stick together. We watch each other. We care for each other long after people leave, and you are going to long be part of it. So, Lane, Godspeed. You are the greatest.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

PN219 AIR FORCE nomination of Nathan J. Powell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN552 AIR FORCE nomination of Christine B. Olivares, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN597 AIR FORCE nominations (28) beginning FRANCISCA A. ALAKA LAMPTON, and ending VICTORIA M. WEIGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN598 AIR FORCE nominations (51) beginning BRITNEY M. ALONZO, and ending

JUSTIN MATTHEW WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN600 AIR FORCE nominations (146) beginning MARIA L. ADAMS, and ending MITCHELL H. YUAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN601 AIR FORCE nominations (239) beginning MICHAEL A. ADAMS, II, and ending PHILLIP A. ZENCEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PG639 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning with THOMAS A. BIEDIGER, and ending with RYAN D. NUDI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2023.

##### IN THE ARMY

PN553 ARMY nomination of Gilberto Deleon, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN554 ARMY nomination of Bradley M. Mravik, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN555 ARMY nomination of Justin L. Purvis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN556 ARMY nomination of John J. Adams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN610 ARMY nomination of Paul M. Tobin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN611 ARMY nominations (207) beginning JON P. ALEXANDER, and ending ADAM M. ZIHAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN612 ARMY nominations (51) beginning DAVID J. ADAMS, and ending BRIAN H. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN613 ARMY nominations (244) beginning STEFAN E. ADAMCIK, and ending ANDREW D. ZUPFER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN616 ARMY nominations (6) beginning TONY B. FEARS, and ending MICHAEL S. SHARP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN640 ARMY nomination of Ryan R. Pommier, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2023.

PN641 ARMY nomination of Sebastian A. Coates, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2023.

PN642 ARMY nomination of James M. Caldwell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2023.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN247 MARINE CORPS nominations (41) beginning RYAN K. ALDRICH, and ending JEFFREY W. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN249 MARINE CORPS nomination of Steven M. Angeline, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN557 MARINE CORPS nomination of Bradley B. Keller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN558 MARINE CORPS nomination of Nicholas B. Staiton, which was received by