

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). 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. 1, Lester Martinez-Lopez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jeanne Shaheen, Brian Schatz, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

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 Lester Martinez-Lopez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 21 Ex.]

YEAS—64

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

NAYS—33

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Braun	Hoeven	Risch
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Vance

NOT VOTING—3

Casey	Cramer	Fetterman
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 64, the nays are 33.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lester Martinez-Lopez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the memberships on the twelve subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations for the 118th Congress be printed in the RECORD. I thank my vice chair on the committee, Senator COLLINS, for her leadership and cooperation with me in making these important assignments.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Senator Murray, as Chair of the Committee, and Senator Collins, as Vice Chair of the Committee, are ex officio members of all subcommittees of which they are not regular members.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Heinrich (chair), Feinstein, Tester, Merkley, Baldwin, Manchin, Peters, Hoeven (ranking member), McConnell, Collins, Moran, Hyde-Smith, and Fischer. (7-6)

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Shaheen (chair), Feinstein, Reed, Coons, Schatz, Manchin, Van Hollen, Merkley, Peters, Moran (ranking member), Murkowski, Collins, Capito, Kennedy, Hagerty, Britt, and Fischer. (9-8)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Senators Tester (chair), Durbin, Feinstein, Murray, Reed, Schatz, Baldwin, Shaheen, Murphy, Collins (ranking member), McConnell, Murkowski, Graham, Moran, Hoeven, Boozman, and Capito. (9-8)

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Senators Feinstein (chair), Murray, Tester, Durbin, Shaheen, Merkley, Coons, Baldwin, Heinrich, Kennedy (ranking member), McConnell, Murkowski, Graham, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Hagerty, and Britt. (9-8)

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Senators Van Hollen (chair), Durbin, Coons, Manchin, Heinrich, Hagerty (ranking member), Boozman, Kennedy, and Rubio. (5-4)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Senators Murphy (chair), Murray, Tester, Shaheen, Baldwin, Peters, Britt (ranking member), Murkowski, Capito, Kennedy, and Hyde-Smith. (6-5)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Merkley (chair), Feinstein, Reed, Tester, Van Hollen, Heinrich, Peters, Murkowski (ranking member), McConnell, Capito, Hoeven, Fischer, and Britt. (7-6)

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Baldwin (chair), Murray, Durbin, Reed, Shaheen, Merkley, Schatz, Murphy, Manchin, Capito (ranking member), Graham, Moran, Kennedy, Hyde-Smith, Boozman, Britt, and Rubio. (9-8)

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Senators Reed (chair), Murphy, Van Hollen, Fischer (ranking member), and Rubio. (3-2)

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Murray (chair), Reed, Tester, Schatz, Baldwin, Heinrich, Coons, Manchin, Peters, Boozman (ranking member), McConnell, Murkowski, Hoeven, Collins, Rubio, Hagerty, and Fischer. (9-8)

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Senators Coons (chair), Durbin, Shaheen, Merkley, Murphy, Van Hollen, Schatz, Graham (ranking member), McConnell, Boozman, Moran, Rubio, and Hagerty. (7-6)

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Schatz (chair), Murray, Durbin, Feinstein, Reed, Coons, Murphy, Manchin, Van Hollen, Hyde-Smith (ranking member), Collins, Boozman, Capito, Graham, Hoeven, Kennedy, and Moran. (9-8)

TRIBUTE TO WHIDBEY ISLAND PILOTS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Lieutenants

Peggy Dente and Lyndsay Evans of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island for making history on February 12, 2023, as part of the first-ever all-women flyover at the Super Bowl pregame, commemorating 50 years of women serving in the U.S. Navy.

Both of these extraordinary women represent the best of what Washington State—and our Nation—has to offer. Not only do the two share over a decade of friendship, they also bring with them a keen sense of duty and deep commitment to excellence in aviation.

In 1973, eight women broke new ground by being selected for naval aviation training for the first time in our Nation's history. Five decades later, we are seeing more women and girls express interest in taking to the skies through service and leadership at every level of naval aviation. In performing their first ever flyover, Dente and Evans have quite literally proven that with women at the helm, the sky is the limit.

I know breaking into a field dominated by men isn't easy, when I first got to the Senate, there wasn't even a women's bathroom off the Senate floor. But every day, women like Lieutenants Dente and Evans are setting an example for young girls that with hard work, they can follow their dreams and achieve their goals.

I offer my sincere thanks to the lieutenants for their service to our country and my congratulations for proudly representing Washington State on the national stage. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this tremendous accomplishment.

UKRAINE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the media likes narratives that split issues neatly into two opposing positions and often Republican against Democrat.

There is one narrative that has been repeated so often it has become conventional wisdom. It holds that President Biden and Democrats in Congress have been 100 percent committed to opposing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but Republican support is softening.

That misleading narrative was briefly scrambled when the Congressional Progressive Caucus sent a horribly naive letter calling for President Biden to engage in direct diplomacy with Russia.

Clearly, there are factions on both sides of the aisle hesitant about backing a Ukrainian victory. There is also confusion about who in U.S. politics is most behind Ukraine winning the war.

Let's be clear, the most fervent supporters of victory for Ukraine are Republicans.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration gets credit for being all in for Ukraine, when in fact it is more accurate to say that it is, at best, three-quarters of the way in. And it has been dragged this far by events, public opinion, and some of our bolder European allies.

Speculation about future Republican support for Ukraine is often framed in

terms of Biden's chances to get the aid he might want, but no one asks why President Biden let \$2.2 billion worth of authority passed by Congress to draw down existing weapons for Ukraine expire on September 30 unused.

I have been pleased for the most part with President Biden's rhetorical defense of Ukraine's right to self-defense. But I have been puzzled by some of the delays in sending crucial military aid.

I see signs that the Biden administration is afraid of what will happen if Ukraine is helped to push Russia back into its own borders. It is understandable to be concerned about the risks when dealing with a nuclear armed aggressor. But Putin has backed away from his nuclear saber-rattling in the face of Western resolve. And there are even greater risks in not stopping Russia's aggression now. In fact, in my view, we got where we are now because we acted too timidly in the past. Repeating that mistake now will only invite more aggression in the future.

In early February of 2021, shortly after President Biden took office, I gave a speech wondering whether President Biden's tough-on-Russia rhetoric would be matched by his administration's actions. I reminded the Senate that 12 years earlier, in the early days of the Obama-Biden administration, then-Vice President Biden went to Munich to deliver a speech calling for the United States to hit the "reset button" with Russia. Two years prior to Biden's speech, at the same annual conference, Vladimir Putin had sharply criticized the United States and suggested we were a threat to world peace. Moreover, just 6 months prior to calling for a "reset," Russia had invaded and occupied a significant portion of the Republic of Georgia, which it still occupies to this day.

Calling on the United States to "hit the reset button," as Secretary of State Clinton later symbolically did with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, strongly suggested that the breakdown in relations with Russia was somehow our fault. President Reagan's Ambassador to the U.N., Jeane Kirkpatrick, famously identified a tendency among some of her fellow Democrats to "blame America first." I put the shameful Obama-Biden Russia reset policy squarely in that tradition. Relations with Russia became bad because Putin saw the United States as an obstacle to his imperial aspirations. That is not our fault. I am concerned that some corners of the Biden administration have not fully dispensed with the naivety behind the so-called Russia reset.

Let's recall just how mistaken the Obama-Biden Russia policy was. Many people remember the arrest of Anna Chapman and nine other deep cover Russian spies living as normal Americans. The FBI had been monitoring this spy network until agents saw signs that Chapman suspected the jig was up. The FBI needed to arrest the whole network before she had a chance to

warn them and they all fled the country.

However, it just so happened that Dmitry Medvedev, the Russian President—at least in name—was in town. Medvedev was meeting with President Obama about all the areas of cooperation between the U.S. and Russia made possible by the reset, plus a photo op eating hamburgers together. To not upset this chummy meeting, the arrests of the Russian spies were postponed until Medvedev was on a plane back to Moscow.

Remember, in order to get around term limits, Vladimir Putin drafted his loyalist, Medvedev, to be the puppet President until Putin could run for President again. This was a transparent shell game. But there was naive hopeful talk that Medvedev was a reformer who might steer Russia in a more democratic, pro-Western direction. Anyone following Medvedev's recent rhetoric about Ukraine knows that is far from true. He remains totally loyal to Putin and has been serving as his rhetorical attack dog.

When Russia invaded and occupied parts of Ukraine in 2014, the Obama administration had angry words for Putin. The reset was on the rocks. But the practical response of the Obama administration was to deny Ukraine defensive weapons, sending only non-lethal aid. President Obama urged Ukraine not to fight to avoid escalation and to settle the matter diplomatically.

Russia has a history of using negotiations to create frozen conflicts. Russia will snatch a piece of land, then demand a ceasefire and negotiations, allowing it to keep the ill-gotten gains indefinitely.

Obviously, maintaining the status quo with Russia occupying parts of Ukraine did not result in a lasting peace. It just led Putin to think he could get away with it again. Perhaps he would have if he hadn't gone big.

Having succeeded in Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014, Putin figured he might as well go big and grab the whole country. It hasn't worked out for him as he hoped, but he hasn't given up on his initial goals either, even now. Those who had put hope in resetting relations with Russia have been mugged by reality.

But behind the current tough talk, I worry that some in the Biden administration, maybe President Biden himself, still cling to a hope that we can reach an understanding with Putin. Like Jeane Kirkpatrick, who remained a Democrat throughout her service in the Reagan administration, there are many Democrats today who have a clear-eyed view of Russia, including many colleagues in this body. I just wish President Biden would listen to them rather than those in his administration who let concerns about antagonizing Putin keep us from doing everything we can to save Ukrainian lives.

The administration has eventually relented and given Ukraine many