

he has refused to actually engage in a process where we can be successful. As a matter of fact, he knows, by delaying the appropriations bills to this point, that we will not be successful because he has undermined it; he has sabotaged it.

Now, you might ask: Why would the majority leader do that? Well, two reasons. One is when you do a continuing resolution, it actually maximizes the power of the leadership because they are the ones that actually negotiate it, and then rank-and-file Members get to vote up or down. But the other reason he did it was because he wants to point to the House and claim that somehow they are trying to shut down the government.

Now, admittedly, the House is having their challenges, but Speaker MCCARTHY has pulled a rabbit out of the hat more than once this year, and I am hoping he can do so again. But if we do have a shutdown because the House and the Senate can't agree, it will be a Schumer shutdown—a Schumer shutdown.

Well, Members on both sides of the aisle want an opportunity to participate in the process. They want an opportunity to shape this legislation, even at this late hour, to do as much as we can in the truncated time that the majority leader has allowed us. So I urge the leader to let the Senate vote on this underlying bill, the MILCON-VA bill. It is important. We shouldn't act like it is a throwaway or inconsequential. We ought to do our work, even under the impossible timeframe that the majority leader has given us.

I think it is dangerous when Congress circumvents the normal process when it comes to funding the government. It is no secret that our debt is about 100 percent of our GDP. We are going to spend more money just paying interest to bondholders on our debt that is at some point more than we spend on national defense. Interest rates are high, we know, because the Federal Reserve is fighting inflation caused by too much reckless spending, but, as a result, we are also paying more money to our creditors to finance our national debt. And I think that is another symptom of the broken system by which we fund the government.

It has become all too common for short-term funding bills and large spending packages to be negotiated by a handful of leaders and rushed through both Chambers before the clock runs out. There is a growing sense of frustration among Members of this body on both sides of the aisle and a strong appetite to return to a normal, regular, transparent, participatory process, one that will give us at least a chance to try to get our fiscal house in better shape. But we have no chance to do that when, in essence, the majority leader creates an emergency situation, claims that he is the gold standard, and tries to blame the House and say they want a shutdown.

Well, I am not for a shutdown. I agree with the Senator from Oklahoma. The same problems that cause you to shut down the government are always there staring you in the face when you reopen. So we need to do our work. We need to solve those problems and avoid a shutdown, but it is really hard to do when the majority leader of the U.S. Senate, the only one who can schedule votes on the floor and the agenda of the Senate, sabotages the process.

The majority leader has purposely wasted more than 80 days that could have been spent debating funding bills and left the Senate with only two options: shut down the government or kick the can down the road with a continuing resolution. Of course, that is just a temporary measure, and then, when that expires, we have to deal with the consequences of that by figuring out, OK, how do we continue to fund the government at some appropriate level.

He knows we can't move 12 appropriations bills through the Senate and the House in the next 16 days, so this exercise will certainly end with another spending bill that is crafted at the last minute and jammed through both Houses. If this is the gold standard for anything, it is a gold standard for political theater. This is drama scripted by the majority leader. He is trying to put on a show or, I would say, a pretense of regular order in the Senate so he won't get the blame if the government shuts down; he can blame his political opponents in the House.

Well, suffice it to say, I am disappointed we find ourselves where we do, especially in light of the hard work done by our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee. They have done their job, but the majority leader has blown that up.

This is not an accident. This is by design. If the government shuts down at the end of the month, the majority leader won't be able to escape the blame for what will be a Schumer shutdown. Despite the political theater and the Kabuki dance, he will have to own that shutdown because he will have been the primary author of it.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 265.

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 Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

#### 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. 265, Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Edward J. Markey, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 37.

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 Rita F. Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

#### 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. 37, Rita F.

Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 14, be waived.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session, to 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.

### TRIBUTE TO WAYNE "COACH" GORDON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the August recess, the North Lawndale community on the West Side of Chicago witnessed the end of an era. Founding pastor of the Lawndale Community Church, the Reverend Doctor Wayne "Coach" Gordon passed the torch to the church's new lead pastor, Pastor Jonathan Brooks, or as the congregation affectionately knows him, Pastor J.

Pastor Gordon first heard the call to serve when he was a junior in high school in Fort Dodge, IA. The call came so clear that he woke his mother in the middle of the night to share his newfound purpose and let her know that he was ready to forgo his studies and get started immediately. His mother heard him out and arranged for him to meet with the local pastor. That call set in motion a lifetime of service and selfless commitment to helping others.

He listened to his mother and finished his studies. In 1971, he graduated from Fort Dodge Senior High School. He attended Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL, where he played football. From there, he attended the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and he later would go on to obtain his doctorate in ministry from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

By 1975, Pastor Gordon had moved to North Lawndale, a predominantly Black community that at the time was ranked the 15th poorest neighborhood in the United States. He took a job as a teacher and coach at Farragut High School. Pastor Gordon, a White guy from Iowa teaching and coaching in a predominantly Black community, immediately stood out. His players and

students called him "Coach," a nickname that has stuck with him to this day.

In 1977, Pastor Gordon would marry the woman of his dreams, his lovely wife Anne. On their first night together in North Lawndale, their home was broken into. Unfortunately, this would not be the only time. Many would question what the couple was thinking. Why would they want to continue to live in such a dangerous neighborhood?

But as one of his mentors, the late-Reverend Tom Skinner would say, Pastor Gordon and Anne "continued to continue." They refused to live amongst their neighbors in fear. When others saw a dangerous neighborhood stricken by poverty, violence, and drug addiction, Pastor Gordon and Anne saw a community desperate for opportunity. Many turned their back on North Lawndale, but Pastor Gordon and Anne would not do the same. They heeded their call to help and made the conscious choice to live where they served—and they wasted no time getting to work.

They set up a Bible study through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The Farragut High students enjoyed it so much that they talked Pastor Gordon and Anne into starting their very own church. While it took some convincing, Pastor Gordon agreed, and the Lawndale Christian Community Church began its mission of building a better North Lawndale.

He assembled the congregation before a blackboard and asked what were the top issues facing the community. No. 1 was a safe place for residents to do their laundry, since the local laundromats were often sites of violence. The church made room in its basement using donated equipment to give residents a safe place to do their laundry.

The second issue on the congregation's list was access to quality, affordable health services in the area. Through several grants from charitable organizations in Chicago, countless volunteer hours, and faith, in September 1984, they were able to transform a run-down Cadillac dealership into the Lawndale Christian Health Center. This clinic, which started with a staff of just five, has now grown to have more than 100 medical providers across six locations, transforming access to healthcare in the area.

Apart from providing services through the church, Pastor Gordon and other community leaders knew for the Lawndale area to thrive, they would need a strong economic base capable of attracting businesses, employing residents, providing goods and services, and supporting the community. With that goal in mind, Lawndale Community Church began reaching out to businesses encouraging them to set up shop in the neighborhood.

Their outreach efforts would pay off. In 1995, the iconic Lou Malnati's Pizzeria opened a branch of its restaurant in North Lawndale. Lawndale Community Church owned the property in

which the restaurant operated, and the church converted the four apartments above the pizzeria into affordable housing units for families. Aside from proving that North Lawndale could sustain mainstream businesses, Lou Malnati's also committed to staffing the restaurant with local employees and donating its profits to the community. And more than 25 years later, Lou Malnati's remains open for business in North Lawndale.

They did not stop there. To promote homeownership and build wealth, they opened the Lawndale Christian Development Corporation, which purchased and rehabilitated abandoned homes and then sold them to members of the community at a discount. To support health and wellness in the community, they opened the 60,000-square-foot Lawndale Christian Health and Fitness Center. And to expand access to legal services, education, social services, employment, and training opportunities to young people, they opened the Lawndale Christian Legal Center.

These successful community development efforts have come to be known as the Lawndale Miracle—and it has laid the foundation for future investment in North Lawndale and served as a model for community development efforts in other disadvantaged communities.

But while these achievements may be divine, they are far from unexplainable. They are a testament to the leadership of Pastor Gordon and his congregation. They have renovated apartments, built fitness centers, mentored students, established medical clinics, started businesses, and helped breathe a new energetic life into the entire community.

Through it all, Pastor Gordon has remained a dedicated husband to Anne; a loving father to their three children: Angela, Andrew, and Austin; father-in-law to Nate and Stacy; and grandfather to Mack, Brooke, and Langston. I have had the pleasure of knowing Pastor Gordon and Anne, and I have been fortunate to witness much of the progress they have helped make. Pastor Gordon is no ordinary preacher. His work does not end with his sermon. He has used his faith to power a lifetime of service to help his neighbors and community. While Pastor Gordon may have passed his torch, I am certain the work of the Lawndale Community Church is not finished.

Loretta and I thank Pastor Gordon and Anne for their service to the community, and we wish Pastor J. the best of luck in carrying on the legacy of the Lawndale Community Church.

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision