

supplies to the IDF and sent powerful military assets to deter Iran and its proxies. Americans are working around the clock to secure the release of hundreds of hostages. Nevertheless, requests by the United States that the Israel leadership conduct a more targeted campaign, that they permit and provide safe passage for aid essential to the sustenance of innocent life, that they clearly define objectives, that they prevent extrajudicial killings by extremists in the West Bank, and that they present a credible plan for Gaza's future governance have mostly been ignored.

I fervently want Israel to succeed, both in defeating the threat posed by Hamas and as a historic effort to secure a safe homeland for Jews. But I do not accept that the total deprivation of millions of innocent civilians is necessary for Israel to secure its objectives or in the national interest of the United States. And where the United States is committing arms, funds, and support for those efforts, we must guard our principles and our interests.

Mr. President, I urge Israel's political leaders to act with wisdom, to listen to Israel's greatest friend and ally, the United States. Just as I pray for the freedom of hostages taken so cruelly from their families, as a pro-Israel Jewish American, I urge mercy for the innocent civilians in Gaza.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Chair would like to clarify for the information of the Senate that Senator CRAMER is named as a conferee on H.R. 2670.

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. 354.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey M. Bryan, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

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 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. 354, Jeffrey M. Bryan, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla, Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Christopher A. Coons.

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. 308.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Margaret M. Garnett, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

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 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. 308, Margaret M. Garnett, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch.

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. 117.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

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 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. 117, Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, November 15, be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 212, Roger F. Nyhus, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Barbados, the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Roger F. Nyhus, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the

United States of America to the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on another matter, today, with a heart full of gratitude, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to Laura Lytle, who is retiring today as the Daily Press Media Gallery Director.

Laura is precisely my kind of Senate staffer: It was through her good work that the press has been able for all these years to access the Senate and keep the American public informed about our work.

Laura joined the Sergeant at Arms in May of 1994 as an intern in the Press Gallery, taking on special projects to help the fine-tuned machinery of the Gallery to function properly. Over the years, she worked her way up the ladder and became the director of the Daily Press Media Gallery in June of 2013.

It was Laura who was responsible for credentialing reporters for daily newspapers, wire services, and online publications and has helped facilitate press interactions with Members.

Without Laura, that crucial bridge between this Chamber and the public that the press creates would not be possible. She has been the facilitator and gatekeeper, and we are all so thankful for her service.

Laura, we wish you the very best on the next step in our journey. We will miss you, and please know you always have a home here in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO MATT MYERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, serving as a U.S. Senator is a singular opportunity to improve the lives of the American people and make a difference. When you think about the areas where we have made real, tangible progress in preventing suffering, disease, and death, the area of tobacco prevention and control stands out for its dramatic success in saving lives.

This has required a comprehensive campaign to shift public thinking, promote public health practices, empower the medical and scientific communities, shed light on the despicable tactics of Big Tobacco, and change the laws at the Federal, State, and local levels. That is a daunting task.

But not for Matt Myers—it has been his life's calling, and for more than four decades, he has made it his mission to save lives and hold the tobacco industry accountable. Matt recently stepped down as the president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which he helped to found in 1996. He has had an outsized impact by playing an indispensable role in just about every tobacco-related policy debate, and he is leaving a lasting legacy of success measured in lives spared.

As a leader, advocate, and lawyer, Matt helped transform our country's perception of the tobacco industry: by placing children, one of the main targets of the tobacco industry's predatory tactics, front and center. And he has produced remarkable results. While Matt has worked on this issue, the percentage of high school students who smoke cigarettes has declined from 28 percent in 2000 to 2 percent today.

He began at the Federal Trade Commission in 1980, where he worked on regulatory and litigation efforts related to tobacco tax increases, warning labels on cigarette packs, banning advertisements on television and radio, and many other topics. He worked extensively on the historic master settlement agreement to hold the tobacco industry responsible for its lies, deceit, and marketing over the years, which took millions of lives far too soon, including my own father's.

Matt worked alongside me as we pushed to finally empower and authorize the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of tobacco products. Since then, we have collaborated to further raise the prices of tobacco products out of the reach of children, increase the age to purchase tobacco products, and close loopholes that e-cigarette manufacturers have exploited. Matt also has recognized that we can make a difference through other avenues as well. We worked together to kick chewing tobacco out of Major League Baseball and out of Hollywood movies.

On virtually any issue that Matt has engaged on, he has prevailed—no matter how long it took—and our children, our public spaces, and the Nation's health are better for it. But that is not to say it has been easy—far from it. One can characterize Matt's approach as a dogged, comprehensive pursuit of what is right, no matter the challenge or the strength of the adversary. And with the riches and shamelessness of Big Tobacco, Matt has taken on the giants, and more often than not, he has come out on top.

It has been an honor to work alongside Matt on so many of these efforts.

When a new problem arises, and I am considering what course of action to take, I often find myself asking, "What does Matt Myers think?" I know many others have counted on Matt's counsel and wisdom. He has been recognized for his leadership by the Harvard School of Public Health, the Surgeon General of the United States, Smokefree America, and the American Cancer Society. He has been selected to advise the United Nations and World Health Organization on global health conventions, spreading his lasting legacy overseas to address disparities worldwide.

While I will miss Matt's trusted advice, tenacity, and creativity, I know the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and the broader public health community will carry on the effort to safeguard our successes, continue to protect children from the harms of vaping, clear the market of menthol and flavored cigars, and promote smoking cessation.

I thank Matt for his service to the country and wish him the best of luck in his new, well-deserved chapter in life. I know that will include more time with his wife Louise, sons Micah and Daniel, and grandchildren Elliot, Eva, David, and Sofia. Congratulations, again.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. 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 stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-76, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$52.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.