

equipment they need in order to deter the next war.

And then there are, of course, passing the appropriations bills that make sure that their pay and their training and their families are taken care of.

Now, the Defense authorization bill that the majority leader has deferred until after the election does really important things, like making sure our defense industrial base is ready to produce the weapons and the materiel that are needed not only by the United States but by our allies around the world.

It also is focused on reforming our acquisition and procurement processes to ensure that our Armed Forces can meet the challenges of this evolving and dangerous threat environment.

September 30 is the end of the fiscal year—otherwise known as the deadline to fund the government for the next 12 months, as well as to provide our military with the authorities and resources it needs to face the security challenges that I have touched on.

The end of the fiscal year, September 30, does not sneak up on us. We know where that date is on the map, and we know that it is our job to be prepared to meet that timeline. Yet the majority leader has failed to put on the floor the sorts of opportunities we need in order to fund the government and to equip our military. And it is simply inexcusable. It isn't for lack of trying by the relevant committees on both sides of the aisle.

Senator MURRAY, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a Democrat, and Senator COLLINS, the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, a Republican, have made serious progress on the appropriations process.

As of July, the Appropriations Committee has approved 11 of the 12 annual funding bills in a bipartisan fashion. On the Defense authorization bill, Chair REED, a Democrat, and Ranking Member WICKER, a Republican, have worked tirelessly to advance the Defense authorization bill out of the Armed Services Committee, which they did more than 2 months ago. But the majority leader has done nothing—nothing—to move these bills on time across the Senate floor.

Again, there is none of the other 99 of us who can do anything about that. That is solely his authority and his responsibility. But he has done nothing, until here we are just days before the deadline.

This is a completely avoidable crisis. I heard the majority whip—the Senator from Illinois—say that it is embarrassing that we find ourselves in this situation. Well, the embarrassment is as a result of the majority leader's failure to even move these bills across the floor. He likes to point across the Capitol to the House—and, yes, the House has its own challenges, but we wouldn't be looking at short-term continuing resolutions in another phony narrative of a government shutdown if the ma-

jority leader and the U.S. Senate had simply done our job and done it on time.

And our military commanders will tell you that short-term continuing resolutions are no way to operate. Every one of these short-term bills, which looks like we are heading toward a December 20 deadline for the next short-term continuing funding bill, has provisions that said there should be no new starts. And, of course, with only a 3-month funding stream, it is almost impossible to plan.

A national defense authorization bill passed in the lameduck doesn't give the military the certainty it needs so that decisions can be made that address our short- and long-term needs.

Postponed defense authorization legislation makes our military less capable, jeopardizing our readiness and leaving citizens at home and abroad more vulnerable to our adversaries who are on the march.

If I can paint a brief picture of the State of the majority leader's Senate, we have less than 5 days before the end of the month—that is why we are hearing all this unnecessary drama and narrative about a potential government shutdown—and we have not considered a single appropriations bill in the Senate, which we could have done starting months ago.

We have wars in the Middle East and in Europe and rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific and beyond that could reach a fever pitch at a moment's notice. And we have defense leaders from every facet of our military saying that the way the Senate is currently operating when it comes to funding the military and providing for the authorities that they need in order to do their job in the defense authorization bill, the Senate's failure to act on a timely basis is making their jobs harder and Americans less safe.

When you add all these factors together, the picture of leadership here in the U.S. Senate is truly pitiful. It is difficult to describe how frustrating and alarming it is when the Senate's leadership fails to act on such basic matters as keeping the lights on and funding the government, or making sure that our military is ready to stop and prevent the next potential military conflict.

It is even more difficult to convey the national security implications that come with the short-term continuing resolutions; although, the Commission's report is the best attempt I have seen recently.

Now, I appreciate the challenges that Speaker JOHNSON has across the Capitol to help Congress avert a shutdown. And I understand they are going to try to pass a 3-month continuing resolution that will take us to December 20, at which time we will play this movie over again, because all we are doing is kicking the can down the road 3 months and failing to do our job on time or the way it should be done.

But let's not forget we could have avoided all of this if the Senate major-

ity leader had scheduled votes on individual government funding bills months ago, as he could have. These are bipartisan bills. So he owns it. And you might say he designed it.

This delay is by design by the majority leader. There is no other reasonable explanation. He does it because he believes this enhances his power to negotiate a final package of spending bills at the end of the year. But the threats to our national security are real, and the embarrassment that the majority whip expressed early is real. But it could all be avoided if he would simply have let the Senate do its job on a timely basis. That is embarrassing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask that the scheduled vote commence immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON JENKINS NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jenkins nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

(Mr. HELMY assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 249 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Crapo	Kelly
Barrasso	Daines	Kennedy
Bennet	Duckworth	King
Blumenthal	Durbin	Klobuchar
Booker	Fischer	Lummis
Britt	Gillibrand	Markey
Budd	Graham	McConnell
Butler	Grassley	Merkley
Cantwell	Hassan	Moran
Capito	Heinrich	Murkowski
Carper	Helmy	Murray
Casey	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Collins	Hirono	Padilla
Cornyn	Hoeven	Peters
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Reed
Cramer	Kaine	Ricketts

Romney	Smith	Warnock
Rosen	Stabenow	Warren
Rounds	Tester	Welch
Sanders	Thune	Whitehouse
Schatz	Tillis	Wicker
Schumer	Van Hollen	Wyden
Shaheen	Warner	Young

NAYS—17

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Lankford	Schmitt
Braun	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Mullin	Tuberville
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—14

Brown	Fetterman	Risch
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Sinema
Cassidy	Lujan	Sullivan
Coons	Manchin	Vance
Cotton	Murphy	

The nomination was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be notified immediately of the Senate's actions.

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. 787.

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 assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

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. 787, Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Lujan, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, September 23, 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 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.

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I rise to offer remarks on behalf of my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself in recognition of the 140th anniversary of the U.S. Naval War College, which was established on October 6, 1884, in Newport, RI. For the past 14 decades, it has played a critical role in shaping the leadership of our Armed Forces. While the Naval War College's mission has grown over the years, it remains a place of cutting-edge scholarship, helping to strengthen maritime security cooperation, support combat readiness, and develop the future of the Navy.

The Naval War College is a center for research and academic excellence. It provides an advanced course of study for both military officers and civilians and has served as the home of some of our military's most important strategic developments. Students and faculty work closely with the Navy Warfare Development Command and the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group in analyzing national security issues and developing innovative solutions. In addition, the Naval War College has pioneered war-gaming to support combat readiness since its founding and continues to evolve with the modern world offering over 50 events per year to include scenarios beyond the maritime domain such as space, cyber, and humanitarian disaster relief.

The oldest institution of its kind, the Naval War College has played an important role in the education and professional development of some of our country's most accomplished and impactful military officers and civilian leaders. Since the Naval War College's founding in 1884 by Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, more than 50,000 students have earned advanced degrees. Most have gone on to have impressive military careers, leading U.S. servicemembers around the globe and serving at the highest echelons of military and civilian leadership. Esteemed graduates include the Honorable Carlos Del Toro, the current Secretary of the Navy;

General Randy George, the Chief of Staff of the Army; former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and many others from every branch of our Armed Forces.

Throughout its 140-year history, the Naval War College has been a forward-looking institution and has consistently worked to break the mold of traditional military strategy and thinking. As the Naval War College celebrates this impressive milestone, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I know that the faculty, staff, and students will continue this tradition of excellence and innovation.

We are proud of the talented men and women who have made the Naval War College the strong and well-respected institution it is today. Along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I would like to congratulate the entire Naval War College community on this important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO KEN HAMILTON

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of Ken Hamilton and his retirement from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

On October 31, 2024, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will celebrate Ken Hamilton's retirement after 41 years of service. Throughout his career, Ken has been a strong and effective advocate for the State's agriculture industry.

Ken was born and raised in rural Big Horn County, WY. His dedication to agriculture was sparked from a young age. Ken learned the trade by working on the family ranch, raising sheep and cattle, and trying his hand at irrigated farming practices.

Ken graduated from Manderson-Hyattville High School and earned an associate of arts in pre-law at Northwest College in Powell. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wyoming in 1982.

Ken attended the American Farm Bureau Federation work exchange program in Australia during his senior year at UW. While there, he worked for Checkers Pastoral Company and the Colligan Creek Pastoral Company.

Following his return to the States, Ken began his career at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation as a research and field assistant. He gained valuable skills that soon prompted a promotion to director of field services and then administrative assistant. In 2004, he became the executive vice president.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation advocates for farmers and ranchers by protecting private property rights, drafting grassroots policies, strengthening agriculture, and developing educational practices for leadership and advocacy. Ken's life and time at Farm Bureau have been truly dedicated to these principles.

In addition to his work at the Farm Bureau, Ken dedicated his time to various organizations to further conservation efforts and agricultural production. He served on the 2006 Wyoming