

Hassan	Murkowski	Shaheen
Heinrich	Murphy	Sinema
Hickenlooper	Murray	Smith
Hirono	Ossoff	Stabenow
Kaine	Padilla	Tester
Kelly	Peters	Van Hollen
Kennedy	Reed	Warner
King	Romney	Warnock
Klobuchar	Rosen	Warren
Lujan	Rounds	Welch
Lummis	Rubio	Whitehouse
Manchin	Sanders	Wyden
Markey	Schatz	Young
Menendez	Schumer	
Merkley	Scott (FL)	

NAYS—33

Barrasso	Daines	Moran
Blackburn	Fischer	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Risch
Britt	Hoeben	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Crapo	Ricketts	Tillis
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(Mr. OSSOFF assumed the Chair.)
(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). On this vote, the yeas are 64, the nays are 33.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent—

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:18 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJAN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Seymour Leibowitz, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

NOMINATION OF DAVID SEYMOUR LEIBOWITZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm David Leibowitz to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Born in Miami, Mr. Leibowitz received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. After law school, he clerked for Associate Justice Robert G. Flanders, Jr., on the Supreme Court of Rhode Island. He then worked as an assistant district attorney in the Middlesex District Attorney's Office in Cambridge, MA.

From 2003 to 2012, Mr. Leibowitz served as an assistant U.S. attorney in

the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. In that role, he investigated and prosecuted various Federal crimes at all stages, including racketeering, murder, terrorism, and insider trading. Since 2012, he has worked for Braman Management Association in Miami. During his tenure as secretary and general counsel, Mr. Leibowitz was the organization's chief legal officer responsible for all litigation, compliance, licensing, human resource management, and transactional work. Over the course of his career, he has tried 10 cases to verdict, all of which were jury trials in Federal court.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Leibowitz "well qualified" to serve as a district judge, and he enjoys the support of both of his home State Senators, Mr. RUBIO and Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Leibowitz's strong ties to the Southern District of Florida and his significant litigation background in both civil and criminal matters ensure that he will be an asset to the district court. I support his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

VOTE ON LEIBOWITZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Leibowitz nomination?

Mr. LANKFORD. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 52 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rubio
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Butler	Kennedy	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Klobuchar	Scott (FL)
Carper	Lujan	Shaheen
Casey	Lummis	Sinema
Collins	Manchin	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cornyn	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Ernst	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Grassley	Reed	Young
Hassan	Romney	

NAYS—33

Barrasso	Boozman	Britt
Blackburn	Braun	Budd

Capito	Hoeben	Paul
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cotton	Johnson	Schmitt
Cramer	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Marshall	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	Tuberville
Hagerty	Moran	Vance
Hawley	Mullin	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Crapo	Ricketts	Tillis
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 455, Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, John W. Hickenlooper, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Mazie Hirono, Laphonza Butler, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeff Merkley, Peter Welch, Gary C. Peters.

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 Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 53 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Casey	Hickenlooper
Bennet	Coons	Hirono
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Kaine
Booker	Duckworth	Kelly
Brown	Durbin	King
Butler	Fetterman	Klobuchar
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Lujan
Cardin	Hassan	Manchin
Carper	Heinrich	Markey

Menendez	Rosen	Tester
Merkley	Sanders	Van Hollen
Murphy	Schatz	Warner
Murray	Schumer	Warnock
Ossoff	Shaheen	Warren
Padilla	Sinema	Welch
Peters	Smith	Whitehouse
Reed	Stabenow	Wyden

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—3

Crapo	Ricketts	Tillis
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The yeas are 51, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, "We have the means and just enough time this week to avoid a shutdown and to make serious headway on our annual appropriations. But as always, the task at hand will require that everyone rows in the same direction: toward clean appropriations and away from poison pills." Those are not my words. The Republican leader said that yesterday, and he is absolutely right. And I just heard that the Speaker said he doesn't want a shutdown, after meeting with the President. That is good.

But let's be clear. A shutdown that hits air traffic controllers and food inspectors and so much more would be incredibly damaging, and it would make getting all of our funding bills done that much more chaotic and challenging.

There is no reason for a shutdown—not if both sides and both Chambers cooperate in a bipartisan way. So I am working around the clock to wrap up several spending bills by Friday. If we need to pass a very short-term CR along with whatever bills we can finish this week, Democrats are ready to make it happen so we can prevent a completely unnecessary shutdown and continue making progress on our bills.

I have been here before too many times, and I can tell you that a shutdown is costly, and it is harmful to our economy. It hurts real people—Federal employees, not to mention families,

seniors, anyone who depends on basic services working smoothly—and it makes absolutely no sense. It doesn't save us money; it costs us more.

It is no secret that the biggest obstacle right now has been Republican poison pills that were never truly on the table. They were always going to be nonstarters. But we have made really good progress on the first few bills, and we can get them done if extreme demands are pushed aside. We cannot let a few far-right extremists derail the basic functioning of government. There is no reason to listen to them, and there is no way we are going to let them impose extreme policies that go against the basic values of the American people.

I hope bipartisanship will prevail. Let's show the public that Congress still understands a few very simple things: Shutdowns are bad. Working together is good. Let's move past the poison pills and on to the hard work of legislating.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I just returned from the Middle East. We have 140 members of our Wyoming Air National Guard, and they are currently serving our Nation, and they are stationed in Djibouti. Wyoming is very proud of these brave men and women who are fighting for our freedom. Visiting them was a reminder of what makes America strong. It is also a reminder of the challenges we continue to face.

There is a confluence of crises all around the world, from El Paso, TX, to Jerusalem, Israel. These terrible crises did not emerge overnight. They are the direct result of the weakness of the current President of the United States.

President Biden has been weak in the defenses of our Nation. It is obvious to me. It is obvious to people around the country. It is obvious to people all around the world. Since he took office, he and the Democrats have taken a wrecking ball to so many different sources of our Nation's strength. They hollowed out America's military power in favor of wokeness. It has impacted and undermined recruitment. They sold out American economic strength. In favor of what? Well, Big Government at home and massive government spending. They traded away America's energy dominance. Why? Well, in favor of Green New Deal fantasies.

It does seem that Democrats apologize for American excellence at every turn. They have worked to make us more dependent upon our enemies.

President Biden's latest energy disaster—he would call it a move; I would call it a disaster—weakens our Nation even further. The administration announced in January that it would freeze permits for liquefied natural gas exports. I view this decision as astonishingly foolish.

Affordable, reliable energy is the foundation of a strong, affordable econ-

omy. America's energy revolution created many good-paying jobs all across the country and certainly in my home State of Wyoming. It made us as a nation energy independent—some would go so far as to say energy dominant—and it helped us build the world's largest LNG export industry. It also gave our European allies a secure energy source. This is at the time of Russia's incursion into Ukraine. This is one of the best examples of how American economic strength makes the world safer.

The Republicans want to make Europe less dependent on Russia for energy sources and more connected to the United States. That is not what I see happening with this administration. Both by word and action, Democrats and this President make America and our allies more dependent on our adversaries.

Attacking American energy dominance is a pattern in this administration. It started on day one. Remember, it was day one that, after the President gave a speech right out here at the Capitol Building about how he wanted to bring the Nation together, he went down and took an ax to the Keystone XL Pipeline, and he opened the floodgates at the same time to the crises we are having at our southern border.

The President restricted offshore oil drilling, and he has placed a moratorium on new coal permits on Federal lands—all of these things undermining American energy security. Now comes this blow where he is cutting American natural gas exports. He is denying Americans good jobs, lower prices, and empowering Russia and Iran.

Joe Biden has failed fundamentally what should be the goal of any President, which is to make America stronger, safer, more secure.

President Biden also has a long list of foreign policy failures. Nobody can forget the deadly and disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. Taliban terrorists seized \$7 billion in weapons. So many Americans were left behind. Thirteen brave soldiers lost their lives, including one from Wyoming, Rylee McCollum from Bondurant, WY. The fall of Kabul was a deadly disaster.

In January of 2022, the President made another damaging misstep. He suggested that a minor incursion by Russia into Ukraine would be met with minimal consequences. Weeks later, we saw Russian tanks head into Kyiv.

Then there is the chaos in the Middle East. In September 2023, the President's National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, made a bold pronouncement. He said:

The Middle East region is quieter today than it has been in two decades.

Eight days later, Hamas attacked Israel. They killed more than 1,200 Israelis. They took hundreds more hostages, including American citizens. It was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.