

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 23.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

VOTE ON MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 56 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Table with 3 columns of names: Banks, Barrasso, Blackburn, Boozman, Britt, Budd, Capito, Cassidy, Collins, Cornyn, Cotton, Crapo, Cruz, Curtis, Daines, Ernst, Fischer, Graham, Grassley, Hagerty, Hawley, Husted, Johnson, Justice, Kennedy, Lankford, Lee, Lummis, Marshall, McConnell, McCormick, Moody, Moreno, Mullin, Murkowski, Paul, Ricketts, Risch, Rounds, Schmitt, Scott (FL), Scott (SC), Sheehy, Thune, Tillis, Tuberville, Wicker, Young.

NAYS—45

Table with 3 columns of names: Alsobrooks, Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt Rochester, Cantwell, Coons, Cortez Masto, Duckworth, Durbin, Fetterman, Gallego, Gillibrand, Hassan, Heinrich, Hickenlooper, Hirono, Kaine, Kelly, Kim, King, Klobuchar, Luján, Markey, Merkey, Murphy, Murray, Ossoff, Padilla, Reed, Rosen, Sanders, Schatz, Schiff, Schumer, Shaheen, Slotkin, Smith, Van Hollen, Warner, Warnock, Warren, Welch, Whitehouse, Wyden.

NOT VOTING—7

Table with 3 columns of names: Booker, Cramer, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Moran, Peters, Sullivan.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kashyap Patel, of Nevada, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a term of ten years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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. 23, Kashyap Patel, of Nevada, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a term of ten years.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Tommy Tuberville, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Jim Justice, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask that the Senate execute the order of February 13 in relation to the Lutnick nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Howard Lutnick, of New York, to be Secretary of Commerce.

VOTE ON LUTNICK NOMINATION

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

Ms. SMITH. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 57 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Table with 3 columns of names: Banks, Barrasso, Blackburn, Boozman, Britt, Budd, Capito, Cassidy, Collins, Cornyn, Cotton, Cramer, Crapo, Cruz, Curtis, Daines, Ernst, Fischer, Graham, Grassley, Hagerty, Hawley, Hoeven, Husted, Hyde-Smith, Johnson, Justice, Kennedy, Lankford, Lee, Lummis, Marshall, McConnell, McCormick, Moody, Moreno, Mullin, Murkowski, Paul, Ricketts, Risch, Rounds, Schmitt, Scott (FL), Scott (SC), Sheehy, Thune, Tillis, Tuberville, Wicker, Young.

NAYS—45

Table with 3 columns of names: Alsobrooks, Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt Rochester, Cantwell, Coons, Cortez Masto, Duckworth, Durbin, Fetterman, Gallego, Gillibrand, Hassan, Heinrich, Hickenlooper, Hirono, Kaine, Kelly, Kim, King, Klobuchar, Luján, Markey.

Table with 3 columns of names: Merkley, Murphy, Murray, Ossoff, Padilla, Reed, Rosen, Sanders, Schatz, Schiff, Schumer, Shaheen, Slotkin, Smith, Van Hollen, Warner, Warnock, Warren, Welch, Whitehouse, Wyden.

NOT VOTING—4

Table with 2 columns of names: Booker, Moran, Peters, Sullivan.

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Lutnick nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2034—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 13, S. Con Res. 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 58 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Table with 3 columns of names: Banks, Barrasso, Blackburn, Boozman, Britt, Budd, Capito, Cassidy, Collins, Cornyn, Cotton, Cramer, Crapo, Cruz, Curtis, Daines, Ernst, Fischer, Graham, Grassley, Hagerty, Hawley, Hoeven, Husted, Hyde-Smith, Johnson, Justice, Kennedy, Lankford, Lee, Lummis, Marshall, McConnell, McCormick, Moody, Moreno, Mullin, Murkowski, Ricketts.

Risch	Scott (SC)	Tuberville
Rounds	Sheehy	Wicker
Schmitt	Thune	Young
Scott (FL)	Tillis	

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gallo	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Paul	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Moran	Sullivan
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The motion was agreed to.

SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2034

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 7) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with me today is my colleague from my office Mr. John Lowery, and I appreciate his help.

Last week, I spoke a few minutes about the Corporation for Public Broadcasting—we called it the CPB—and the Public Broadcasting Service—most people know what that is, PBS—and the National Public Radio, which most people know is NPR.

And I am not going to repeat everything I said last week, but I do want to revise and extend my remarks.

The U.S. Congress created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting back in the sixties, 1967, I think. Those were very different times. There was no internet. There was no Facebook. There was no Twitter. There was no cable TV. There were no podcasts. There were basically a handful, maybe a few more, of radio stations throughout America. And the television was still pretty new. There were three main television stations with local affiliates.

And many Americans, particularly in rural areas, didn't have access to radio and television for their news because that is all there was. I remember those days.

And so Congress decided to start providing money for what it called, at that time, public broadcasting, to make sure that everybody had access to news, radio, and television, even if they didn't live near a big city.

And Congress intended that that news be news, factually based. Now, those were the days in America of true journalism. I remember them, perhaps the Presiding Officer does too.

Those were not the days that we experience today, opinion journalism, where young journalists are taught to report on who, what, when, where, how, and their opinion. Those were days when the news was really the news, and it was fair and balanced.

So the U.S. Congress created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. CPB still exists, and here is its relationship—CPB's relationship—to NPR and PBS. We give CPB, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, about half a billion dollars a year, a lot of money.

And the Corporation for Public Broadcasting turns around and picks certain local television and radio stations and gives most of that money to them.

And then those local television and radio stations, the chosen few that get money from the American taxpayer through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, buy programming and content from two other organizations. If they are a radio station, they buy that from NPR, and if they are a television station, they buy that content from PBS.

So up here you have got Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The American taxpayer, through Congress, gives them a half a billion dollars a year. That money flows down to certain select local television and radio stations, and those local television and radio stations then buy content from NPR, if they are a radio station, or PBS, if they are a TV station, which were loosely affiliated with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Since this scheme was established, the American taxpayer has given all of these entities about—oh, I don't know—\$14.5 billion, \$14.5 billion. That would be enough to build 2,700 miles of paved roads throughout America. And I based that on—the roads I am talking about are not gavel roads—regular paved roads, 10 feet each lane, actually 12 feet each lane, with a 3-foot shoulder on each side.

But instead of building 2,700 miles of roads in our rural areas and in urban areas that need infrastructure, we have decided to give this money to CPB, which gives it to the local stations, which gives it to PBS and NPR.

I mentioned the local stations. Only a select few local stations get this taxpayer money. And in my State, we have over 500 radio stations. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, in its unfettered discretion, only picks seven to give the money to. The other 493 get nothing.

We have over 150 TV stations in Louisiana. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting only gives the taxpayer money for 3 of them, so 147 get nothing.

Now, I probably wouldn't object to this if the Corporation for Public

Broadcasting and NPR—National Public Radio is what I am referring to, of course—and PBS had been consistent with its original mission, which is to report factually the news to the American people.

The government doesn't need to subsidize the media anymore because the world has changed. Ninety-seven percent of the people in America have the internet, but I still probably wouldn't object that much if the reporting by these entities were fair and balanced. But it is not.

No fairminded person in America can look at this programming and believe that it is unbiased. It is decidedly prejudiced in favor of one point of view. That is not just my opinion. I think most Americans would agree with that because most Americans see the headlines that are produced by these three entities.

I talked about some last week. This is what Americans' taxpayer money is going to, to provide.

Here are just some headlines from NPR. I mentioned these last week. I won't belabor them.

“Michael Avenatti: A Profile Of The Media-Savvy Attorney.”

This is NPR. They love Michael Avenatti, who of course is in jail today. He is a crook. But NPR loved him because he was anti-Republican, and he was anti-President Trump.

NPR published another article:

“How racism became a marketing tool for country music.”

Now, you don't have to be Euclid to see the implication here that country music is racist, according to NPR. I don't think any fairminded person would call that factual or fair and balanced.

Here is another headline from NPR:

“Donald Trump's Long Embrace of Vladimir Putin.”

I also talked last week about a few other headlines from NPR.

Here is one:

“Monuments And Teams Have Changed Names As America Reckons With Racism. Birds Are Next.”

That is what your tax dollars paid for.

“Eating less beef is a climate solution. Here's why that's hard for some American men.”

“How the Taliban adds to Afghanistan's woes when it comes to climate-fueled disasters.”

No fairminded person with an IQ above a single-cell organism would conclude that this is anything but biased to certain points of view.

And there are more. I could do this all night, but I am not.

Here are some more headlines from NPR:

“‘There is no neutral’: ‘Nice White People’ Can Still Be Complicit In A Racist Society.”

That is what your tax dollars paid for.

Another one:

“Ibram X. Kendi Says No One is ‘Not Racist’. So What Should We Do?”