

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 207 Leg.]

#### YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ossoff
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Warnock
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

#### NAYS—44

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Reed
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schumer
Booker	Kim	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Luján	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markley	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Fetterman	Murphy	Welch
Gallego	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Mullin	Risch	Sanders
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The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 20) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Meador nomination be waived.

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

#### 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 bill 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, Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2024.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Roger Marshall, Shelley Moore Capito, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Kevin Cramer, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt.

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 Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2024, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 208 Leg.]

#### YEAS—51

Banks	Fischer	Moody
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Moreno
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Paul
Budd	Hoeben	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young

#### NAYS—46

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

#### NOT VOTING—3

Mullin	Risch	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, there has been a lot of wailing and gnashing of teeth in the mainstream media about President Trump's commonsense

immigration enforcement agenda. That is one of the reasons he got elected on November 5. It is because the American people were fed up with open borders and with the 70,000 Americans who died of fentanyl poisoning, not to mention all of the criminals who came across the border along with everybody else. But to listen to some of my Democratic colleagues talk, one would think that Kristi Noem is deporting grandmothers. Well, this couldn't be further from the truth. So I want to take just a minute to correct the record to talk about exactly what is happening.

The Trump administration is rightly carrying on one of the most basic functions of the government, and that is to keep our people safe. This isn't rocket science. This isn't partisan warfare. In order to keep the American people safe, we need to keep criminals and gangs off our streets, and that is exactly what the Trump administration is doing.

The Department of Homeland Security recently announced they made more than 32,000 enforcement arrests in just 50 days—32,000. This is nearly as many arrests as Immigration and Customs Enforcement, otherwise known as ICE, made in the entirety of fiscal year 2024 when border crossings and “got-aways” were at an alltime high. Obviously, this was not a priority for the Biden administration, and we are all living with the consequences.

Of these arrests that have been made under Secretary Noem, nearly half of them have been convicted criminals and others with final orders of deportation. These are people who were either criminals and did not want to appear in front of law enforcement, who were apprehended, or people who claimed asylum or some other legal benefit and lost their cases and are under final orders of deportation but were allowed to remain in the country under the Biden administration. Of these arrests that have been made under Secretary Noem, as I said, nearly half are convicted criminals. One-third of them have pending criminal charges. Nearly 1,200 of them are criminal gang members, and 39 are known as suspected terrorists.

The Department of Homeland Security isn't carrying out this critical mission alone. This is a whole-of-government approach, as it should be. The Department of Justice is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security on a new interagency initiative to crack down on international organized crime, known as Operation Take Back America. International gangs, like MS-13 and Tren de Aragua, have been wreaking havoc, death, and destruction in communities across America.

MS-13, for those who are not familiar with that particular gang, is reputed to be the most dangerous gang on the planet. It is composed primarily of Salvadoran criminal aliens and has 30,000 members around the world, including 10,000 here in the United States. Their

motto is “kill, rape, control.” As I said, they are one of the largest and most dangerous street gangs in the United States. Many of their leaders are currently in prison in El Salvador for crimes like murder, kidnapping, and extortion.

However, some on that side of the aisle or in the mainstream media have actually gone so far as to describe MS-13 as Boy Scouts in comparison with the destruction and devastation that has happened at the hands of Tren de Aragua, a Venezuelan gang known for human trafficking, kidnapping, and drug trafficking. This particular Venezuelan gang has been particularly aggressive in my home State of Texas, where the Department of Public Safety arrested more than 40 of the gang’s suspected members just last week. In New York, Tren de Aragua has been recruiting gang members from New York migrant shelters, increasing cell phone robbery activities, and trafficking stolen phones back to their headquarters in South America.

But the reason this gang became the topic at dinner tables across America was that they were responsible for the murders of both Laken Riley and a fellow Texan, Jocelyn Nungaray. I can’t imagine anyone would be anything except relieved that the Trump administration has prioritized the removal of these gang members from our country.

The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice have shown an ability and a commitment to lock up these dangerous international terrorists at breakneck speed. As part of this initiative, a recently created task force in Virginia—just across the river—arrested 247 individuals in 2 weeks. So this is not just a phenomenon in border States like mine. These people are embedded around the country—literally, in every State.

Among these arrests in Virginia was Henry Josue Villatoro Santos, one of MS-13’s top gang leaders, who was charged, in this instance, with illegal gun possession.

Another MS-13 leader, Joel Vargas-Escobar, was arrested in New York just last week. This particularly dangerous criminal was most recently arrested for his alleged involvement with 11—11—murders, but this was not his first run-in with the law. He was previously arrested and deported back in 2018, but due to the Biden administration’s open border policies, he was able to illegally enter the country again.

The Department of Homeland Security recently announced that, in less than a week, ICE has arrested 68 gang members of the Venezuelan gang that I mentioned a moment ago.

With Secretary Noem and Attorney General Bondi at the helm, I think we can all sleep more easily knowing that law enforcement is finally able to do their job, which is to enforce the law—something the Biden administration seemed positively allergic to. As a result, our homeland will be safer and more secure.

The Trump administration is committed to dismantling these international criminal organizations that have created so much havoc and heartache throughout our country. It should be obvious and universal that keeping our citizens safe is not a partisan exercise. It is nothing more than common sense, and it is actually the responsibility of government to enforce the laws that Congress passes. Refusing to arrest and lock up criminals who never should have been in the country in the first place will go down in history as one of the biggest mistakes the Biden administration and Democrats have ever made. The Trump administration is rightly correcting the terrible mistakes of the Biden administration.

The American people deserve to live in a country where they don’t have to be fearful for their safety, and that is what they voted for last November 5. Parents should not have to worry about their children never being seen or heard from again simply because they go for a jog like Laken Riley did. Far too many innocent people have lost their lives because of the Biden administration’s open border policies and failure to keep criminals and gangs out. It is incomprehensible to me that the President of the United States refused to enforce the laws, and it has resulted in so much pain and misery and heartache among so many people in this country.

The Trump administration’s, by contrast, arrests and deportations of criminal migrants here is part of the solution, not part of the problem.

I am confident the American people know nonsense when they hear it, even when it is broadcast over mainstream media, and the fearmongering that we hear on the left about the Trump administration’s efforts to keep all Americans safe are nothing more than that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

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

#### TARIFFS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, when it comes to new tax breaks for billionaires, Republicans are going to work around the clock and stay through the night. But when it comes to stopping Trump’s trade war for good, when it comes to stopping a tax increase aimed squarely at working families, when it comes to stopping the complete uncertainty that is chipping away at confidence in our economy, most Republicans can’t be bothered, never mind that Trump is now pushing us into a recession and sending the markets whipsawing back and forth every time he tweets.

Trump may be retreating now from some of his most outlandish tariffs, but make no mistake, his trade war is far from over. First of all, he is still taxing goods from every country, across the

board, at 10 percent, at least. That means higher prices and serious pain for families and small businesses across our country; not to mention, he is only escalating his boneheaded trade war with China with 145 percent tariffs.

There is no question we are in fierce competition with China. I chaired a committee hearing focused on this. We need to be competing to win. But that is not what Trump is doing.

Do my Republican colleagues understand it is not setting America up for success to launch an all-out trade war with the second largest economy in the world on a whim?

While people might be temporarily relieved by this so-called pause on the even higher tariffs, the fact of the matter is that Trump is only delaying them. The threat of even larger taxes, which American families simply cannot afford, is still like a timebomb, set to blow up our economy in 90 days. If Congress does not defuse that economic bomb, there is a real threat that it will blow up balance sheets for small businesses and farms, college savings accounts for our students, and your retirement savings, along with a lot more.

I have to emphasize the uncertainty and the constant, by-the-hour reversal of Federal policy. That alone is already causing massive harm.

How on Earth are you supposed to build your business if your costs skyrocket on a tweet?

How are you supposed to plan for retirement when the President is sending your 401(k) on a roller-coaster ride every time he is in a bad mood?

How are we ever going to rebuild trust—trust—with our trading partners across the world when the message the United States is sending right now is that our trade relationships are built on sand, and there is no logic to the tariffs the United States will impose?

How are they supposed to feel good about negotiating with a country where one man can totally burn down the economy and Congress will not lift a finger to stop him?

Instead of building stronger trade agreements, Trump is pushing our partners away and pushing them toward striking deals with China and our other adversaries.

Mark my words, this chaotic chapter is not over, as much as Republicans want to pretend otherwise. I have been hearing from small businesses that are in an absolute panic because of Trump’s tariff threats.

Car dealerships are seeing sales plummet because Trump is sending prices higher. Restaurants are trying to stock up on any goods they can because their ingredients are about to get more expensive. Our growers are bracing for rising operating costs and retaliatory tariffs, and that will drive up prices at our grocery stores.

Ten percent, across-the-board tariffs are still bad enough to ruin families’ finances.

While Republicans are showing with their own actions that they couldn’t