

worked when they were in control, but Republicans are doing it differently. We are determined to restore the Senate to what it was meant to be.

The floor is where every Senator gets a chance to give his or her input on legislation. That is what would have happened today if cloture had been invoked, the motion the Democrats just voted against. It would have meant open debate, further deliberations, further modifications. But the Democrats refused to even begin that debate.

I don't know what Democrats would change about the process this bill has gone through. It had a 3-hour markup in the Banking Committee that considered 40 amendments. That is what we used to call regular order around here.

It was reported out of the Banking Committee by a vote of 18 to 6, with 5 Democrats supporting the bill. And since the markup, Senators have been meeting nonstop to modify the bill on both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans—countless meetings.

In fact, there have been fully six versions of this bill and numerous modifications made, many of them to satisfy the Democrats' demands—six versions of this bill based on feedback and input from Members on both sides and, in many cases, modifications made that were done in response to demands made by Democrats in the bill—six versions.

I don't know how you can have any more process than that. Democrats have been accommodated every step of the way, up to and including long sessions yesterday and late into the night last night.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I just have to say, frankly, I just don't get it. I don't know what more they want. I don't know why you vote against proceeding to a bill on the floor after you voted to refer that same bill to the floor, as a number of Democrats, as I just said, did coming out of the Banking Committee, which, of course, makes you wonder if this is about the bill at all or if it is simply Democrats obstructing because they want to deny Republicans or President Trump a bipartisan win. Given the fact that the Democrats keep moving the goalposts, it is hard not to suspect that is the case, and I have to say that is deeply disappointing.

I strongly support this bill, but I have now changed my vote to no today so that we can bring this legislation up again if and when Democrats are ready to get serious. Clearly, today, they are not.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 83.

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 James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. 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. 83, James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 84.

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 Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I sent 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. 84, Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-

Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 42.

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 Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. 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. 42, Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

John Thune, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Crapo, Lindsey Graham, Tim Sheehy, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Roger Marshall, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger F. Wicker.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

#### GENIUS ACT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today should have been—it should have been—a historic day for Americans, a historic day for working-class Americans, blue-collar Americans, to see their financial system democratized. Well, what does that mean? What it means is a day where single mothers like the one that raised me—the day becomes a little cheaper, things become a little more affordable.

Why? Because we were on the verge of doing something that would have made our markets safer and cheaper for everyday, working Americans across this remarkable land. But, instead, we witnessed a disappointing display of political gamesmanship that puts partisan politics above policy and obstruction above innovation.

We could have come together as Republicans and Democrats, not in a bipartisan way but in an American way, to deliver real change for the American people, real change embedded in the passing of the GENIUS Act. But not this day.

I know that this day was supposed to be special. It was supposed to be the day that America as a nation would rise to the occasion of innovation over regulation. It was supposed to be the day where we would come together in a nonpartisan way, Republicans working with Democrats, to make this Nation work better for the blue-collar comeback. It was supposed to be that day. But not this day.

I know what those on the other side would say. Let's be brutally honest about it, though. The GENIUS Act was a bipartisan achievement at the Banking Committee. It was a bipartisan achievement because we took the time, hours upon hours. The Presiding Officer was there. We debated day in and day out for weeks and months before we ever had the hearing. We offered almost 80 amendments during the session in the Banking Committee. We voted on 40 amendments in the Banking Committee. We made the decision to make America's economy safer and cheaper for the American people.

But when the lights came on and the cameras were watching, what did we see? We saw those same Democrat colleagues who recognized the urgent need to bring stablecoins into the clear, responsible, regulatory framework—we watched them take a step back and vote against the very bill they voted for, the bill they shaped. What changed? What changed? What changed? Not the substance. They got more of what they wanted than the last five iterations of the legislation. What changed was politics. Not policy, not the legislation, not the substance—politics.

Let's be honest. What we saw today wasn't a vote against the legislation. Several iterations—the Presiding Officer's staff, my staff, and Democrats' staff spent thousands of hours working on improving the bill; up until 2 a.m. last night, staff getting phone calls from Democrats about what they needed for the bill to pass.

It was a vote against President Trump and President Trump's legislative agenda. It was a vote to stop President Trump from having a victory in the digital asset space. It was a vote against common sense—that simple.

Trump derangement syndrome has once again hijacked responsible governance in this Chamber, but unfortunately, unfortunately, it is the Amer-

ican people—they are the ones who lose. It is blue-collar, red-blooded Americans who pay the ultimate price of inaction in this Chamber brought about because of politics, not policy.

It frustrates me. It frustrates me to sit through hours of meetings. It frustrates me to watch people look me in my eyes and tell me: We are almost there; I just need one more thing. It frustrates me when my colleagues seem so sincere that they want the revolution of innovation to happen in America. It frustrates me to watch them turn their backs on the very people they say they represent. It frustrates me that the modern financial tools that make our economy not just faster but safer—safer because the blockchain technology makes it safer and more inclusive.

Entrepreneurs and developers want clarity so they can build here in the United States of America, not be pushed offshore into a regulatory environment that is confusing.

Let me close with this. The bill delivered on exactly what we all want: safety, consumer protections, AML, BSA. All the things that the Presiding Officer would want, that I would want, that they would want—we did it. We did it together. But there is something putrid.

It is hard to understand how my good friends could walk away from our priorities, that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle decided to chicken out on safety, on inclusion, and on democratization.

When the cameras were rolling and the stakes were high, we were left high and dry—not because of the policy but because the political landscape dictated, demanded that they deny the average American access on this day. This is exactly the kind of cynical Washington maneuvering that makes people sick to their stomach.

But I am proud of the work we have done. I am, frankly, proud of the work that my Democrat colleagues on the committee offered to make the bill better. I am proud of the fact that for a couple of hours in America's Capital, we put partisanship to the side. We decided we would just do the right thing. I am proud that the Republican Party stood up and stood firm on innovation, stood strong on consumer protection, and we were there for national security.

I am not finished fighting. I am frustrated, but we are not defeated. We are simply delayed. We are not finished fighting. We will continue to work on the digital asset revolution that the American people voted for, that they deserve. The need hasn't disappeared, and neither has our commitment to American leadership in the digital asset space.

To those who chose politics over progress today, the American people are watching.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

## GAZA

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about an issue that people all over the world are thinking about, are appalled by but, for some strange reason, gets very little discussion here in the Nation's Capital or in the halls of Congress, and that is the horrific humanitarian disaster that is unfolding in Gaza.

Today marks 68 days and counting since any humanitarian aid was allowed into Gaza. For more than 9 weeks, Israel has blocked all supplies: no food, no water, no medicine, and no fuel. Hundreds of truckloads of lifesaving supplies are waiting to enter Gaza, sitting just across the border, but are denied entry by Israeli authorities.

There is no ambiguity here. Netanyahu's extremist government talks openly about using humanitarian aid as a weapon. Defense Minister Israel Katz said:

Israel's policy is clear: No humanitarian aid will enter Gaza, and blocking this aid is one of the main pressure levers.

Starving children to death is a weapon of war, is a clear violation of the Geneva Convention, the Foreign Assistance Act, and basic human decency. Civilized people do not starve children to death. What is going on right now in Gaza is a war crime committed openly and in broad daylight and continuing every single day.

There are 2.2 million people who live in Gaza. Today, these people are trapped. The borders are sealed, and Israel has pushed the population into an ever smaller area. With Israel having cut off all aid, what we are seeing now is a slow, brutal process of mass starvation and death by the denial of basic necessities.

This is methodical; it is intentional; it is the stated policy of the Netanyahu government.

Without fuel, there is no ability to pump fresh water, leaving people increasingly desperate, unable to find clean water to drink or to wash with or to cook properly. Disease is once again spreading in Gaza. Most of the bakeries in Gaza have now shut down, having run out of fuel and flour. The few remaining community kitchens are also shutting down.

Most people are now surviving on scarce canned goods, often a single can of beans or some lentils shared between a family once a day.

The United Nations reports that more than 2 million people out of a population of 2.2 million face severe food shortages. The starvation hits children the hardest. At least 65,000 children now show symptoms of malnutrition and dozens have already starved to death. Malnutrition rates increased 80 percent in March, the last month for which data is available after Netanyahu began the siege, but the situation has severely deteriorated since then.

UNICEF reported yesterday that "the situation is getting worse every