

You cannot make this up. The obvious question for the average American is, OK, what does this mean for me? Like, somebody living in New Britain, CT, might think it is kind of gross that Trump is lining his pockets as President, but they want to know, how does this actually affect me?

Well, the most simple way to think about this is, if the guy you elected to protect us and make our lives better is spending most of his time alternating between playing golf and cutting deals for himself, he is not protecting you. He is not spending any time trying to lower costs or defeat our enemies. Corruption can be a full-time job for Donald Trump, and that is a pretty lousy deal for the American people.

More importantly, when our foreign policy is for sale, we are less safe.

Let me give you an example relative to the trip that Donald Trump is on right now. These countries aren't padding Donald Trump's pockets because they like him. They are paying him in order to get things from the Federal Government—from the U.S. Government—without having to make any actual policy concessions that would benefit the U.S. people.

Before anybody could begin to process the brazen corruption of the UAE-Trump-Witkoff crypto deal, reports very quickly emerged that the Trump administration was considering changing regulations to make it easier for the country of UAE to purchase highly advanced semiconductors from U.S. manufacturers. This was a huge priority of the Emirates. But the restrictions are on the UAE for a reason. The UAE has a very troubling and very close security relationship with China. And so the reason why we didn't allow U.S. companies to sell semiconductors directly to the UAE is because we believe it would very easily become a conduit to China getting their hands on these advanced semiconductors and being able to leapfrog the United States in the business of advanced AI.

But all of a sudden, once the cash payment to Trump through the crypto venture was announced, Trump signaled he was willing to throw our security concerns out the window and transfer this sensitive technology to the UAE, even though it is likely China will get their hands on this technology, allowing China to put themselves in a position to leapfrog us in the race for advanced AI. That would be a disaster for the American people. But that is what is happening. We might hand AI leadership to China because that is the price of Trump getting paid. As long as he gets paid, he doesn't seem to care about the impact on regular Americans.

The White House is open for business and the Trump family is proudly advertising to the world where to send the check. They aren't trying to hide it—a \$400 million luxury plane gifted to the President of the United States right as he is going over to negotiate potentially sensitive security arrangements with the Gulf countries.

Every American, every Republican, every supposed national security advocate in the Senate should be outraged by this. We could look the other way, or we could show together, Republicans and Democrats, to stand up for this country and do something about it.

I have joined with Senators SCHATZ and COONS and BOOKER to introduce a resolution condemning the acceptance of the plane. It is a blatant violation of the Emoluments Clause. We could stand together as a Senate to vote for that resolution.

I introduced legislation to make it illegal for Presidents or Members of Congress and their family members to profit off crypto coins while they hold Federal office. We could join together in that effort.

I will personally seek to block any arms sale that is announced as part of this trip with a country that is personally investing in Donald Trump and his family. I will force a full Senate debate and a vote on these sales.

Foreign leaders need to know that there will be a price for participating in the corruption of the American Presidency. This level of corruption is so gross that even Trump's most hardened MAGA sycophants are turning against him. I didn't think I would see the day, but people like Ben Shapiro and Laura Loomer who fawn over Trump, can't believe he is so crass as to think it is OK to accept planes as a gift in exchange for U.S. national security concessions.

This isn't "America First." This is not what he promised the American people. This is Trump first. He is willing to put our Nation's security at risk, take unconstitutional bribes, just so he can fly himself and his Mar-a-Lago golf buddies around the world in gold-plated luxury planes gifted to him by foreign governments—all while at the same time he tells Americans they should be OK buying fewer school supplies for their kids or fewer birthday presents for their grandchildren because he is driving prices up for non-billionaires in this country—all while at the same time he is kicking 13 million people off of their healthcare.

Trump lines his pockets, he corrupts our foreign policy to enrich himself, while driving up prices and stealing healthcare from average Americans. It is a national security disaster, and it is a moral abomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled rollcall vote begin now.

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

#### VOTE ON RUBINSTEIN NOMINATION

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 244 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

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

#### NAYS—46

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

#### NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Graham
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). 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.

The Republican whip.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

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

#### 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. 71, Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

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,

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 Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 245 Ex.]

#### YEAS—72

Baldwin	Hassan	Murkowski
Banks	Hawley	Ossoff
Barrasso	Heinrich	Paul
Blackburn	Hoeven	Peters
Boozman	Husted	Reed
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Budd	Johnson	Risch
Capito	Justice	Rosen
Cassidy	Kaine	Rounds
Collins	Kelly	Schiff
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cotton	Kim	Scott (FL)
Cramer	King	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Shaheen
Cruz	Lee	Sheehy
Curtis	Lujan	Slotkin
Daines	Lummis	Sullivan
Ernst	Marshall	Thune
Fetterman	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	McCormick	Warner
Gallego	Moody	Warnock
Gillibrand	Moran	Welch
Grassley	Moreno	Wicker
Hagerty	Mullin	Young

#### NAYS—26

Alsobrooks	Durbin	Sanders
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warren
Coons	Murphy	Whitehouse
Cortez Masto	Murray	Wyden
Duckworth	Padilla	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Graham	Tillis
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 26.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

#### RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:36 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### VOTE ON MEINK NOMINATION

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

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, 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 executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

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

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 246 Ex.]

#### YEAS—74

Baldwin	Hawley	Ossoff
Banks	Heinrich	Paul
Barrasso	Hoeven	Peters
Blackburn	Husted	Reed
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Britt	Johnson	Risch
Budd	Justice	Rosen
Capito	Kaine	Rounds
Cassidy	Kelly	Schiff
Collins	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kim	Scott (FL)
Cotton	King	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Crapo	Lankford	Sheehy
Cruz	Lee	Slotkin
Curtis	Lujan	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Ernst	Marshall	Tillis
Fetterman	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	McCormick	Warner
Gallego	Moody	Warnock
Gillibrand	Moran	Welch
Grassley	Moreno	Wicker
Hagerty	Mullin	Young
Hassan	Murkowski	

#### NAYS—25

Alsobrooks	Durbin	Schatz
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Van Hollen
Booker	Merkley	Warren
Cantwell	Murphy	Whitehouse
Coons	Murray	Wyden
Cortez Masto	Padilla	
Duckworth	Sanders	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Graham
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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 actions.

The majority leader.

##### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Danly 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 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.

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 James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 247 Ex.]

#### YEAS—53

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

#### NAYS—45

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

#### NOT VOTING—2

Graham	Hawley
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45.