

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 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. 138, Daniel Zimmerman, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

John Thune, Thom Tillis, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer, Pete Ricketts, Roger Marshall, Chuck Grassley, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, Mike Rounds, John Kennedy, Katie Boyd Britt, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 140.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

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 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. 140, Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Jim Justice, Dan Sullivan, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Jon A. Husted, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Ashley B. Moody, Marsha Blackburn, Katie Boyd Britt.

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. 93.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

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 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. 93, Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Bill Hagerty, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Roger F. Wicker, John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Bernie Moreno, Katie Boyd Britt, Mike Lee, Mike Rounds, Deb Fischer, Steve Daines, Rick Scott of Florida, James Lankford, Jon A. Husted, Ted Cruz.

Mr. THUNE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LOS ANGELES PROTESTS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, recently, the American people have witnessed something that is truly disturbing to them. While President Trump is making America safe by getting criminal illegal aliens off the streets, what they have seen is some on the left are trying to stop the removal of criminal illegal aliens.

This is an issue where about 90 percent of the American people agree they do not want gangs—Tren de Aragua, MS-13—violent gangs—criminals that have committed rape, murder, child sexual abuse, drug traffickers, sex traffickers. They don't want them in their communities.

But when you look at L.A., what you are seeing is that ICE apprehended illegal aliens with these appalling criminal histories. And these are not just charges that have been filed, they are actual convictions that these people have had. I will say this, L.A. and all these other communities where you

have removed these criminal illegal aliens, the streets are going to be safer, communities are going to be safer. Yet you have some pro-illegal leftists in California who have lined up to actually condemn the arrests.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has called them reckless and cruel, and the L.A. mayor, Mayor Bass, claimed that arresting criminals actually sows terror—her words. Representative MAXINE WATERS said President Trump is targeting—her words—the “most vulnerable people.”

These statements are truly at odds with reality, and they make absolutely no sense. How does it sow terror when you are actually apprehending the criminals and taking them off the streets? But when you look at reality and then look at these statements, you see that—whether it is Governor Newsom or Mayor Bass—they did nothing as these violent rioters took over L.A. County streets to protest lawful arrests.

Following the operations, thousands of far-left activists set vehicles on fire; they looted businesses, many owned by those that had immigrated to our country; they shot fireworks at police officers; they blocked off freeways; they burned American flags; and they unleashed chaos across the city. According to Democrats, these riots were, in their word, “peaceful.”

Anyone else could see that the violence that was transpiring was out of control. Even L.A.'s police chief said that his troops were overwhelmed. That is why President Trump deployed 4,000 National Guardsmen and 700 Marines to L.A. to help restore law and order.

Instead of saying thank you to the President for this much needed support as the officers were “overwhelmed,” Democrats started attacking him. In fact, Governor Newsom is suing the Trump administration to remove National Guardsmen from L.A. Once again, the Democrats are siding with criminals over law-abiding citizens.

The images you see of barricaded streets, burning vehicles, looted store fronts, that is what the leftists want. We saw this in 2020, and we saw then that you had elected officials standing on the side of criminals. They are on the side of violent rioters, lawlessness, and chaos.

The American people are tired of crime. They have had enough. As I said earlier, they do not want violent gangs—MS-13 or Tren de Aragua—in their neighborhoods. They want them apprehended, and they want them deported. It is a big reason voters returned President Trump to the Oval Office, and he is going to do everything he can to bring this violence in these cities to an end.

In the Senate, Republicans are working hard to make certain that not only the President but also the administration have the tools that they need to get the job done. My CLEAR Act would ensure that State and local law enforcement officials have the explicit

authority to assist the Federal Government in our immigration enforcement efforts by codifying the 287(g) Program that is so critical. This would enable law enforcement entities just to move forward with that. They wouldn't have to apply for the program.

This month, I also introduced legislation that is backed by the White House that would establish a Deportation Shot Clock. This would require the Federal Government to deport an illegal alien within 15 days of removal proceedings being commenced. This would empower the Trump administration to expedite deportations and ensure that we are getting criminals off our streets faster than ever before.

While Democrats and the leftists out in L.A. are siding with criminals, President Trump and the Republicans here are doing everything we can to help make America safe again.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, in recent weeks, new reports have confirmed what the American people had witnessed for 4 years—that President Biden was in serious decline while in office and struggled to fulfill his duties as President of the United States.

To cover all of this up, a close group of close aides and family members, including Hunter Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, reportedly made decisions on behalf of the former President while shielding him from the public eye. Even President Biden's Cabinet Secretaries struggled to reach him, and I am quoting one Secretary here:

There was clearly a deliberate strategy by the White House to have him meet with as few people as [possible].

That is according to a Cabinet Secretary.

Another one said that the President could only "give you 4 to 6 good hours a day." Everybody knows that you cannot work 4 hours a day and be out of Washington, DC, 40 percent of the time and be the leader of the free world. That is impossible.

While members of the Biden administration are finally speaking out, for years, many of my fellow Tennesseans and I have watched as we saw then-President Biden appear to be unfit to serve in the most demanding and powerful position in the world—and, yes, we have been concerned. Yet, when we raised the alarm, Democrats and the media called us conspiracy theorists and dismissed video evidence of President Biden's decline as "cheap fakes."

The latest reports confirm that Democrats and the media covered up the former President's decline, but they also point to a much bigger issue: Who was making decisions in the White House while President Biden was tucked in and asleep?

Over 4 years, the Biden administration enacted thousands of new regulations that are costing the American people \$1.8 trillion a year. Who made those decisions?

He appointed 235 far-left judges to the Federal bench. Many had never

been a judge. They had no judicial experience. They had never clerked for a judge. They were activists.

He abused the President's pardon power to protect Biden's family members and to free violent criminals. Yes, of those last-day pardons, it appears he signed only one. That was the one for Hunter Biden.

Because most of these actions were signed with the auto pen, Biden may not have been aware of these actions. That would mean that for 4 years, a small group of insiders was making decisions in the President's name. It was a direct attack on our Nation's constitutional order. Every single American deserves to know who was running this country while he was in office.

That is why earlier today, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on a Biden coverup and heard from constitutional scholars who outlined the legal implications of having a President who was absent from his job. This is just the first step in uncovering the truth, and we are going to continue to push for transparency and get to the bottom of the issue to ensure something like this never happens again.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

GENIUS ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, yesterday I voted against final passage of the GENIUS Act. I think the majority of my colleagues agree that we need sensible regulation of cryptocurrency and stablecoins to protect consumers, safeguard our financial system, and close down their use in illicit finance of criminal activities that jeopardize our security. But this bill missed the mark and was pushed through without the opportunity to vote on several amendments that would have strengthened it.

Stablecoins have been called "the new kingpin of illicit activity" as a tool of money laundering, payment in ransomware attacks, and financing for criminal and terrorist activity. The bill purports to bring stablecoins into the Anti-Money Laundering regulatory regime, but does not adequately enforce those requirements at a time when the Trump administration is rapidly dismantling crypto investigation and enforcement units at the Department of Justice and SEC. It fails to address crypto "mixers," which make it more difficult to trace illicit transactions; instead, it calls for further study of the issue. And it includes a

loophole to allow Tether, a foreign stablecoin issuer that has been used to help Russians evade U.S. sanctions, to have access to U.S. markets. Several Senators put forward amendments to address these national security risks, including Senator PETERS, who offered a change that would create a system for tracing stablecoin transactions that is similar to the way we track other financial transactions. The majority leader did not allow consideration of any of these amendments.

The GENIUS Act fails to adequately protect consumers or our financial system, allowing risky assets to provide the required 1:1 peg for stablecoins, limiting the number of issuers subject to financial audit, and failing to give the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau clear authority to offer the same protections from fraud a consumer has when using a bank account. There were amendments to fix these issues; they did not get a vote.

But perhaps most egregiously, this GENIUS Act does nothing to constrain President Trump's rampant crypto corruption. It does not address the meme coin the President marketed in exchange for access to an exclusive dinner. And it doesn't address the President's family stablecoin, which has already been used by a state-owned Emirati company to execute a \$2 billion transaction. It is clear that anyone who invests enough in the President's crypto schemes—including foreign governments—will have access to the highest levels of our government. Senator MERKLEY offered an amendment to ensure that no government official—not the President, not Members of Congress—can issue stablecoins or other cryptocurrencies. The majority leader blocked its consideration.

We have experienced the dangers that weak regulatory structures have posed to consumers, investors, and our financial system. We have paid to bail out industry after those systems have failed. We had an opportunity to strengthen the GENIUS Act, build safeguards around a growing sector, and stamp out its use in corrupt and criminal activities. Instead, we barreled forward without even a vote on those amendments. Because we could not make those critical improvements, I voted against the bill.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 313 on the cloture motion, Motion to Invoke Cloture: Gary Andres, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 314 on the cloture motion, Motion to Invoke Cloture: Olivia Trusty, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2025.