

And I point out to them how they ought to really say “maybe,” because I use the last 4 years of the Garland Department of Justice as an example, showing these nominees, when they come to my office, a pile of about 158 letters that the Department of Justice and the FBI haven’t appropriately answered, even after they said they had answered all of our letters.

Now, that may be tongue in cheek—“maybe”—when I tell them that. But I think we have a responsibility to make sure in our constitutional job of oversight to see that the laws are faithfully executed and when we contact the administration when we think things are wrong, that we are entitled to an answer.

This isn’t a problem just in a Democrat administration; this is also a problem in Republican administrations.

So I asked the new Secretary of Defense that question. He said he was going to be diligent about that. And I discussed the same thing with Governor Noem as well because we ought to have cooperation of the executive branch of government in Congress doing its job of oversight.

I am satisfied that Governor Noem will, to the best of her ability, help us with our oversight abilities and even help us get answers to those left over from the Biden administration.

I think Governor Noem is very well-qualified to be Secretary of Homeland Security. I wish her well in the enforcement of law and reemphasize that a border security is very important not only for the sovereignty of this great Nation of ours, because you can’t be a sovereign nation if you don’t control the borders; and, secondly, for our national security because you can’t have people on the Terrorist Watchlist coming to this country and invading us; and also for law enforcement because you can’t have people with criminal records coming to this country.

It is a big job that is left over from the last 4 years of a Secretary of Homeland Security who wasn’t enforcing the law. I think Governor Noem is up to the task, and we wish her well as she proceeds down this road of making sure that the sovereignty of the United States is protected, our national security is protected, and we have a safe nation based upon law enforcement being able to do its job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

NOMINATION OF SCOTT BESSENT

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in about an hour or so, we are going to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Scott Bessent to be the Treasury Secretary of the United States, and I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this motion.

A Treasury Secretary heads the Agency charged with supporting economic growth, representing U.S. interests before foreign nations and global financial markets and organizations, managing the Federal Treasury, and

overseeing financial institutions—to name just a few of those important responsibilities.

Past successful Treasury Secretaries have understood business and financial markets, as well as foreign policy, national security, budgets, and regulation.

Mr. Bessent’s impressive background positions him for similar success. He has worked for the last three decades as one of the sharpest minds in the global financial industry. He has decades of academic, professional, and leadership experience relative to these positions.

When it comes to Mr. Bessent’s qualifications, there is no room for debate. His background and training are tailor-made for this role, and he has the demeanor and character to be an effective Secretary.

His powerful presentation at his hearing about his desire to serve in government in order to make a meaningful difference was impressive to all. It includes restoring prosperity and opportunity that our Nation experienced during President Trump’s first term in office.

As Mr. Bessent stated, accomplishing key tasks like extending vital tax cuts for all Americans is literally a pass-fail exercise, and I look forward to working closely with him to ensure that we succeed.

I strongly agree with a sentiment that my colleague Senator GRAHAM shared at the nomination hearing that if qualifications—and I might add character—are one’s test, voting to confirm Mr. Bessent is one of the easiest we could ever take.

In prior Congresses, I have joined with many of my Republican colleagues in voting for well-qualified Treasury Secretary candidates put forward by a Democrat President, even though I didn’t agree with all of the positions they advocated.

Mr. Bessent’s candidacy ought to enjoy similar support, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with me in advancing his nomination.

He is the right person for this job, and I commend President Trump in making such an excellent selection.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON NOEM NOMINATION

All postcloture time has expired.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Noem nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 17 Ex.]

YEAS—59

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

NAYS—34

Alsobrooks	Gillibrand	Reed
Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schiff
Blunt	Rochester	Kelly
Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lujan	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gallego	Padilla	

NOT VOTING—7

King	Schatz	Wyden
Merkley	Smith	
Moran	Warnock	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Noem nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; and, further, that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Bessent nomination be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

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. 5, Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

John Thune, John Kennedy, Deb Fischer, Kevin Cramer, Ashley Moody, Rick Scott of Florida, Tommy Tuberville, Marsha Blackburn, Jim Justice, Ted Budd, Roger Marshall, David McCormick, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, John Barrasso, Jon Husted, Bill Hagerty.

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 Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 18 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Banks	Collins	Fischer
Barrasso	Coons	Gallego
Blackburn	Cornyn	Gillibrand
Blunt Rochester	Cotton	Graham
Booker	Cramer	Grassley
Boozman	Crapo	Hagerty
Britt	Cruz	Hassan
Budd	Curtis	Hawley
Cantwell	Daines	Hickenlooper
Capito	Ernst	Hoeven
Cassidy	Fetterman	Husted

Hyde-Smith	Moody	Shaheen
Johnson	Moreno	Sheehy
Justice	Mullin	Slotkin
Kaine	Murkowski	Sullivan
Kelly	Ossoff	Thune
Kennedy	Paul	Tillis
Lankford	Ricketts	Tuberville
Lee	Risch	Warner
Lummis	Rounds	Wicker
Marshall	Schmitt	Young
McConnell	Scott (FL)	
McCormick	Scott (SC)	

NAYS—23

Alsobrooks	Kim	Schatz
Baldwin	Lujan	Schiff
Bennet	Markey	Schumer
Blumenthal	Murphy	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Reed	Welch
Heinrich	Rosen	Whitehouse
Hirono	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—10

Durbin	Moran	Warnock
King	Padilla	Wyden
Klobuchar	Peters	
Merkley	Smith	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 67, the nays are 23. 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 Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. 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.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 256. A bill to require the President to publish a statement of reasons for pardons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Monday, January 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 5, Scott Bessent, postcloture; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:38 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 27, 2025, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, January 25, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
KRISTI NOEM, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.