

people—but of the people—of the United States.

I don't know what it is going to take, but I hope this debate, this discussion, will lead us to finally say: This is a line too far. We are going to draw a line here, and we will establish a relationship with the President that is cooperative, collaborative, bipartisan, and sharing the power that the Constitution gives to each of us. There is nothing less than the liberty of our people that is at stake.

I therefore urge my colleagues to vote against this bill and begin a discussion in the appropriations process as to these two elements and how they should be structured and funded. That is the way it should be done—not by the dictate of a President, of one who is trying to collapse the authority in our Constitution into his own hands.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 10 minutes and Senator HAGERTY of Tennessee be allowed to speak for 5 minutes.

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

NOMINATION OF ANTHONY TATA

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to carefully consider their vote on the nomination of Mr. Anthony Tata to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

The position is absolutely critical and crucial. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is responsible for all personnel matters in the Department of Defense, including military families, childcare, family and financial readiness, the military school system, and working with the military services to ensure the health and welfare of the force. It requires a leader of the highest quality of judgment, expertise, and character.

There is no question that President Trump has the right to choose whom he wants in this critical role, but the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should be someone who is capable, without question, to meet the demands of the job and the expectations of those he will lead.

Mr. Tata was nominated 5 years ago for a position of similar importance in the Defense Department. However, the Armed Services Committee considered his nomination carefully and, on a bipartisan basis, declined to even bring his nomination to a vote. President Trump ultimately withdrew his nomination. I fail to understand why he now would be qualified to oversee millions of servicemembers and their families as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

I respect and I appreciate his military service, but his record of public statements and behavior toward individuals with whom he disagrees politically is disqualifying for a position of this significance.

Mr. Tata's history of controversial and divisive statements is well-documented. Prior to his last nomination, he publicly called President Obama, the Commander in Chief, "a terrorist leader." And he said that then-CIA Director John Brennan deserved to be executed. More recently, he made unsubstantiated claims that there are "mutinous discussions" within the military ranks to sabotage President Trump, and he called for a complete purge of Pentagon leadership, including firing all four-star generals and senior career civilian employees.

I am concerned that Mr. Tata has a misguided and discriminatory view of the military and civilian workforces he would oversee. Our servicemembers and their families and the civilian employees who support them come from all backgrounds and political persuasions. They come from every State and territory in the Union—red States and blue States. Mr. Tata, to be effective, would need to serve all members of the Department of Defense and their families, not just those with whom he agrees politically. His public record and past performance at the Pentagon do not inspire confidence in this great regard.

Mr. Tata failed to alleviate any of these concerns during his hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee. In fact, he doubled down on his goal of removing leadership seen as not loyal to this administration and gave no indication he would exercise measured and independent judgment and seems intent on furthering this administration's political weaponization of the military.

The worst thing that could happen to our military is it becomes a political arm of the President of the United States—any President. Military men and women take an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, not to serve a President. That has kept our military not only above the political fray but the most expert, the most credible, and the most dominant military force in history. If we have personnel in key positions that are evaluating people on their political beliefs rather than their merit, talent, and commitment to the Constitution, we are making a profound mistake.

As I hope my colleagues know, my top priority has been national security and avoiding partisanship as much as one can do. I am ready and able to pick up the phone and talk to people in the Department of Defense, regardless of political party. We look consciously—I look consciously—for common ground in which we can work together because, ultimately, it is not about Republican Presidents, Democratic Presidents, Republican priorities; it is about the welfare and effectiveness of men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. They deserve more than partisanship. They serve cooperation, consideration, and respect for their views.

The American people also deserve that because they are the ones who ul-

timately are supporting these men and women and not just in a financial sense but in a very, very strong, profound, emotional sense of lending their support, of saluting these brave men and women. I am extraordinarily proud of that.

Having reviewed twice and very carefully Mr. Tata's record, particularly his political—indeed, naked political assertions of going after his enemies, placing him in this position would, I think, put him at a point where he would do more harm than good. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote against his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

NOMINATION OF LUKE PETTIT

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to confirm the confirmation of my teammate and friend Luke Pettit, President Trump's nominee to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions.

Luke has served on my staff for more than 3 years. In that time, he has become a vital part of my team, but more than that, Luke has become a leader, an indispensable adviser, and, in fact, a close friend.

Luke is exceptionally qualified. He came to the Senate with an already impressive resume. He has sterling academic credentials. Luke has years of experience at the Federal Reserve and in the private sector. His background has given him a deep understanding of how our Nation's financial system works, not just in theory but also in practice.

Luke is a true rarity here in Washington, DC. While possessing a deep understanding of complex technical matters, Luke has never lost sight of the true aim of economic policy, which is very simply to expand opportunity and to deliver prosperity to Americans from every walk of life.

Here in the Senate, Luke worked arm in arm with many of your staffers to write the GENIUS Act, landmark legislation to regulate stablecoins and promote innovation. Many of you and your staff will recall the long hours it took to move this measure forward.

This bill's passage was never guaranteed. It passed, in great part, thanks to Luke's tireless efforts to overcome obstacles and to bring people together across the aisle. In fact, without Luke's leadership and perseverance, the GENIUS Act, as we know it, would not have been possible.

Beyond his many qualifications, Luke is a leader in the truest sense. He is admired not merely for what he knows but how he carries himself, with humility and with selfless dedication to the task at hand.

Luke is beloved and respected by my entire team, and he mentors countless young men and women in the Halls of the Senate and beyond, including my own children.

To Senate staffers gathered here today, I hope you will see Luke's confirmation as an inspiration and an acknowledgment of the vital role that all of you play in shaping policy and serving this country.

At the highest levels of government, we need leaders who understand the weight of that responsibility, leaders who will approach their duties with wisdom, humility, and an unshakable commitment to do what is right.

Luke Pettit is just that kind of leader.

Mr. President, I can think of no one more qualified, no one more committed, and, frankly, no one more ready to serve than Luke Pettit. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to support the confirmation of Luke Pettit, which is about to occur.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Tata and Edlow nominations.

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

VOTE ON PETTIT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pettit nomination?

Mr. HAGERTY. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 386 Ex.]

YEAS—69

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

NAYS—30

Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt Rochester, Booker, Cantwell, Coons, Cortez Masto, Duckworth, Heinrich, Hickenlooper, Hirono, Kaine, King, Lujan, Markey, Merkley, Murphy

Murray, Ossoff, Padilla, Sanders, Schatz, Schumer, Slotkin, Smith, Van Hollen, Warren, Welch, Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

McCormick

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 action.

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 executive 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. 134, Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

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

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 Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 387 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks, Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt Rochester, Booker, Cantwell, Coons, Cortez Masto, Duckworth, Durbin, Fetterman

Gallego, Gillibrand, Hassan, Heinrich, Hickenlooper, Hirono, Kaine, Kelly, Kim, King, Klobuchar, Lujan, Markey, Merkley, Murphy, Murray, Ossoff, Padilla, Peters, Reed, Rosen, Sanders, Schatz, Schiff, Schumer, Shaheen, Slotkin, Smith, Van Hollen, Warner, Warnock, Warren, Welch, Whitehouse, Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

McCormick

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 52, the nays are 47, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

RECESS SUBJECT TO CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:54 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:34 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON TATA NOMINATION

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

Mr. CRUZ. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 388 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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