

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. 114, John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, Chuck Grassley, Bill Hagerty, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch, Pete Ricketts, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, James Justice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, 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 North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 46, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 417 Ex.]

YEAS—46

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

Sheehy	Thune	Wicker
Sullivan	Tuberville	Young

NAYS—36

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

NOT VOTING—18

Coons	Heinrich	Schiff
Cramer	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Durbin	King	Shaheen
Ernst	Moran	Tillis
Gallego	Paul	Warner
Hawley	Rosen	Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 36.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO E. GORDON GEE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine who has dedicated nearly two decades of his life to the service of our great State of West Virginia and, really, to the betterment of our students seeking higher education; the man who has been President of more universities than anyone else in the world—Dr. E. Gordon Gee, president of West Virginia University, who retired this week.

Dr. Gee—or Gordon, as we call him—was fortunate to serve two tenures as President of WVU, first from 1981 to 1985 and, again, from 2013 to 2025, where he brought his strong desire for community and his absolute love of education to our home among the hills in West Virginia in Morgantown.

I know I speak for everyone when I say how much we will miss his signature bow ties—and I think he must have thousands of them—and his love for athletics, which has led him to be a leader, not just at WVU and his other schools but also at the NCAA. You know, he even offered to suit up for the WVU football team, although he is quick to admit he is not much of an athlete. But he has such infectious energy and thoughtful guidance, and his legacy will be felt at WVU for generations to come.

To understand the impact that Gordon has made on West Virginia, I must expand on what WVU really means to our State and people far outside our borders. WVU was established in 1867, initially named the Agricultural College of West Virginia. It became our State's first public land-grant university. Since then, individuals from across our State, country, and world,

have become Mountaineers, and many are WVU grads, including many members of my family.

There are a couple of things I must note about WVU. First of all, Mountaineers are everywhere. There isn't a town across West Virginia or an airport across the country—and I would even say the world—where you don't see the trademark blue and gold Flying WV logo or hear "Country Roads" being played. Mountaineers serve as a point of pride to our State and bring recognition to the wonderful people, passion, culture, and history that we have in our State of West Virginia.

Second, Mountaineers are changing the world. Across WVU's 13 colleges and schools—whether it is engineering, agriculture, law, or medicine—Mountaineers are making a difference. WVU is the State's only institution to hold the title of an R1 university, the benchmark that recognizes exceptional research capacity. This is a status that WVU received in 2016 under Gordon's leadership.

Gordon's connection to West Virginia isn't just a professional one; it is a personal one too. He chose to return to West Virginia, not once but twice, because he believes in West Virginia, our people, and WVU. When he speaks of his love and passion for our State, it is unmistakably heartfelt. Gordon believes in the power of education. And that belief has left its mark, not only on Morgantown but across every corner of our great State and, honestly, across the country.

When Gordon became president of WVU the first time in 1981, he was only 37 years old. When he returned to Blaney House—which is the residence of the president—in 2013, I will say he came back seasoned with the experience and perspective that WVU really needed.

Through the foundation of his four pillars—education, healthcare, prosperity, and purpose—Gordon has guided WVU through both times of success and tumult, including through a global pandemic. He made education for our children in West Virginia more accessible and obtainable and moved our State toward one of his principles that Virginians should not have to leave our State's borders to receive the healthcare that they deserve.

The impact Gordon has made is apparent in many areas, but particularly noteworthy is the impact he has made through the continued expansion of WVU Medicine. As the chairman of the WVU Medicine board of directors, Gordon oversaw the addition of 20 hospitals under the WVU Medicine umbrella that span across our State and increased the capacity and research support for WVU's world-class facilities, like the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, our Cancer Institute, Heart and Vascular Institute, and new Children's Hospital.

As West Virginia's Senator, I have had the privilege to work with the wonderful and incredibly impressive

people of WVU Medicine and have visited these facilities many times. Let me tell you, they are on the cutting-edge of medical achievements that will save lives and change our world. Gordon's leadership has been a critical part of this success, and it is fitting that his recently finished portrait will live at the WVU Medicine campus.

Although Gordon was born in Utah, he is the first to tell you that he is a "born-again" West Virginian. He has made our State his home, and the effort and energy that he puts toward benefiting the lives of his fellow West Virginians is evident.

Two of Gordon's four pillars that I mentioned earlier—purpose and prosperity—relate directly to economic development in our State. Along with the Marshall president, Brad Smith, Gordon was central to developing the First Ascent Program in West Virginia. This program connects recent WVU and Marshall graduates with workforce opportunities within our State that launch their professional careers and keep our best and brightest at home, contributing to our communities.

The dynamic duo, as I would call them, also worked together to establish Ascend West Virginia, which has been a successful effort to attract remote workers to West Virginia's mountains, highlighting the wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities that our State offers to young professionals and their family.

Additionally, Gordon has made it a priority to visit and spend time every year in all 55 counties of our State, showing the excellent work of the WVU Extension services, designed to build prosperity, enhance educational opportunities, improve health, and create purpose in communities across the entirety of our State.

While Gordon's presence as WVU President will be missed, we know that he will continue to make a difference in West Virginia. As I said when I started this speech, the legacy he built will continue to be felt for generations to come.

I know that I join Gordon and our State when I say we look forward to the leadership and experience that the new WVU president, Michael Benson, brings to Morgantown. In a recent article published at the WVU Magazine, I found the advice that Gordon gave to his successor to be wise, true, and eloquent:

If you love the state and its people, they will love you back.

And that has certainly been the case for Dr. E. Gordon Gee and the time he has spent in Morgantown.

On a personal note, Charlie and I have been the recipients of emails, texts, and letters from Gordon that have lifted us up in tough times and, really, in good times, as well. I have leaned on Gordon's counsel as I have made difficult decisions. And he has always taken the time to give me very thoughtful advice. Both Charlie and I can safely say our lives have been en-

hanced by Gordon and by the friendship that we have fostered with him and Laurie.

Here in the U.S. Senate—and as I look at the President of the Senate, I know this is true of you, being from Ohio—there are many Members here in the U.S. Senate that have Gordon on speed dial. But I am eternally grateful we West Virginians are the ones who get to claim him.

Gordon, I wish you the best in your next chapter. And I have heard him talk about his retirement. He always reminds everybody, "I have not died. I have not died." But I hope you enjoy the well-deserved time that you can now spend with your Laurie, who has made an incredible mark on our State and the university alongside you, as well as your daughter Rebekah and those two beautiful young twin granddaughters whom you love so dearly.

Thank you, Gordon, for all you have done for WVU, West Virginia, all of your leadership, your vision, your heart, your sense of humor, and all that you have done for our State and our people, those of us, like you, who call it home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, in the past month, my great folks in Oklahoma have started learning a new term around here that is an old term, actually, but it is a term we use all the time, "vote-arama."

I have to tell you, it makes me sleepy just to say the word because vote-arama is a part of the 1974 Budget Act that allows for unlimited debate on an issue of certain types of budget process, rescissions, that we did yesterday, and then trying to be able to go back even farther to be able to deal with a reconciliation.

I want to spend just a couple of minutes talking about it because so many folks that I talk to have no perspective on this. It is good to be able to get some context.

The 1974 Budget Act set out 12 different appropriations bills that are done. That is how our budget is actually done. That is how we actually spend. When the House and the Senate and the President sign that, those 12 bills are now law so they have to be done; that has to be spent. But if the President were to say: I don't want to spend this amount; I don't think that it is necessary, it is the law so it has to be done. But the President can actually send back over to Congress a rescissions and say: I would like permission to turn this part off, and, literally, make a new law to be able to say we are not going to spend this.

That is what has happened here in the last 24 hours. The President sent over, about 40 days ago, a rescissions for \$9 billion and said: I don't think this needs to be spent.

I will talk a little bit about the context of that in a moment, but it was on

foreign aid, and it was on National Public Radio and PBS. It was \$1 billion for PBS and National Public Radio, and it was \$8 billion for foreign aid. He sent it over and said: I don't think this needs to be spent.

What has been interesting is to be able to see the national conversation on this on social media as if this cuts off all foreign aid everywhere. I have to tell you, I have some of my good friends at home who would be fine with all foreign aid being cut off, but that is not what happened. What happened was actually going through and examining what foreign aid do we want to keep and what foreign aid do we think is wasteful, that we shouldn't keep in it.

So what actually happened? Let me set some context on this first.

There are things like PEPFAR, which I have been very supportive of. For the last couple of decades, the United States has made one of the biggest impacts in the world on slowing down the spread of AIDS worldwide. The work that has been done in Africa, through PEPFAR, on AIDS, on tuberculosis, and on malaria has literally saved millions of lives and has dramatically slowed down that virus movement. The innovation that not only affects Americans who suffer with those but also affects the entire world and the movement of that disease has led us to actually engage in areas like Ebola and other areas to be able to go and fight them and make sure that diseases that are happening there that are highly communicable don't spread to us or to other parts of the world. All of us who have experienced COVID know full well that it is better to be able to attack it early than it is to be able to fight it later. PEPFAR has been that entity that has done that. This bill that we just walked through in the rescission didn't affect that aid at all. We said: No. We are going to continue to be able to do that.

Programs like Food for Peace and the McGovern-Dole Program that actually feed the hungry around the world—some of my farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma even and some of the mills that are there actually take some of the food that is grown there—it is literally packaged in the Midwest, and it is shipped all over the world to feed hungry folks—that is still in place. That has not changed.

I know a lot of folks on social media say: Oh, my gosh. This is cutting off all food aid everywhere else.

No, that is actually not what happened. We have worked through our foreign aid programs to counter the Chinese Communist Party's influence around the world, but that wouldn't affect it. In fact, that was specifically isolated out to say: No, we are going to continue to do that because we have got to push back against the communism that has spread across the world.

What about combating anti-Semitism, human trafficking, and religious persecution? No, no. We protected all