

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David Woll, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schiff
Schumer

Shaheen
Slotkin
Smith
Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Gallego

Kelly

Tillis

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. 165, Nicholas Kent, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Education.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Bernie Moreno, Tommy Tuberville, Kevin Cramer, Ron Johnson, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, John Barrasso, Marsha Blackburn, Roger Marshall, Jon A. Husted, Roger F. Wicker, Jim Banks, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ted Budd, David McCormick.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Nicholas Kent, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Education, 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 North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 467 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Durbin	Klobuchar
Baldwin	Fetterman	Lujan
Bennet	Gillibrand	Markley
Blumenthal	Hassan	Merkley
Blunt Rochester	Heinrich	Murphy
Booker	Hickenlooper	Murray
Cantwell	Hirono	Ossoff
Coons	Kaine	Padilla
Cortez Masto	Kim	Peters
Duckworth	King	Reed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 45, 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 Nicholas Kent, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, it is a pleasure to be here on the Senate floor tonight on an occasion that many of us, if not all of us, have waited days, months, years. We have been working a long time to return the U.S. Senate to the position in which we actually legislate, to the position in which appropriations bills, after a topline number, a budget number is determined, Committee on Appropriations begins the deliberation after weeks, months of consideration, of information, of witnesses, of testimony, of reports, and requests from our colleagues across the Senate.

Sometimes I think the appropriators are thought of as a unique group of people, but isn't the reality that every Member of the U.S. Senate is an appropriator? That is because when the committee finishes its work, upon our conclusion of our deliberations and our votes, then every Member of the U.S. Senate has an opportunity to speak and to amend the legislation that we have developed.

Appropriations is really an opportunity for us to make sure that the taxpayers' dollars are well spent, that we look for opportunities to reduce spending where it is inappropriate, and support projects and functions of government that matter to the American people, from things that affect people in their daily lives to the broad picture of our country's national security.

So I congratulate the leaders of the Senate. The majority leader, who upon his election to serve as majority leader, determined that he was going to be certain that we returned to something we called, in days gone by, regular order in which the committee passes 12 appropriations bills, and the Senate considers those 12 appropriations bills.

They are considered by the House, and when conferenced and reconciled, off to the President. In the absence of that, the Congress of the United States and my colleagues in the Senate, we lose authority and control over one of our primary responsibilities. On behalf of the American people, we make decisions about their hard-earned dollars

and how they are spent. We make decisions about how to avoid spending that is wasteful. And that appropriation process has been absent for way too long in this body.

The bills that we are about to consider—and there will be a unanimous consent request made by me in a few moments, and that unanimous consent request will ask that four appropriations bills be considered by the U.S. Senate beginning this evening.

Four appropriations bills because those four appropriations bills have come through the committee process. Almost without exception, they have been approved in a largely bipartisan way—in many instances unanimously by every Republican and Democrat on the committee. And in every instance, they were passed by both, supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

The Appropriations Committee, although we, from time to time, have our challenges like every other committee in the Senate, has a reputation for working together to get a good result. And we are accomplishing that in the efforts that we are bringing to the Senate, to our colleagues tonight, to the American people, to see our work product on four bills.

That process requires unanimous consent—that every Member, all 100 of us, has an opportunity to make certain that they are ready to proceed. It is required because we are amending, we are adding these bills to a House bill on the Senate floor. And to do so, we have to ask every Senator: Do we have your permission to do so? And that is what is going to take place here in a moment.

The bills we are talking about tonight, the bill that is on the Senate floor, the House bill, the package by which we have to utilize because the Constitution requires that appropriations bills commence in the House of Representatives—so a House bill is on the Senate floor this evening, and we are going to ask unanimous consent to add three other bills to that House bill. Those three other bills are Agriculture, the Legislative Branch, and Commerce-Justice-Science.

And I hope I am somewhat of an expert on many of the topics included in those four bills, but I chair the subcommittee in the Appropriations Committee that appropriates for the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, and a collection of Agencies involved in science. And in that effort to find a balance and support our bills—and I will speak to the one that I am most familiar with—we have worked in a bipartisan way to create a product that is broadly supported by every Member of the committee, at least has the thought that they had a good chance and opportunity to participate in the process and got a bipartisan result.

For my colleagues who know me, I came here to legislate. I have had the opportunity to work in the U.S. Senate where legislation has been more rare

than I want it to be, and I am proud of our efforts to bring Members of this body together to see that we have an end product for consideration by our colleagues, and presumably, passage by the U.S. Senate, consideration by the House, and a signature by the President.

We don't legislate often enough, as I said, and the sad thing is that I have said this before to my colleagues: I don't know why anybody would want to be a Member of the U.S. Senate if it wasn't to accomplish results, to work together to get a product that meant something for the benefit of our constituents back home.

That meant something for the brighter and better future for the American people and made our country more safe and secure.

When we don't do our responsibilities, when we are unable to accomplish that goal, we harm not only the institution of the U.S. Senate and its role in our government, but we harm the American people.

In the bill that I am most responsible for in this package of four, the Department of Commerce is what you might expect it to be. It affects our business communities and climate. It affects international trade. It is important for communications and telecommunications and broadband.

There is a broad array of issues and Agencies within the Department of Commerce that we are monitoring. We are making certain they are performing correctly to the best of our ability, and we are determining how much money they need to operate.

The Department of Justice is one that certainly comes home to the American people quickly. It is in many instances about law enforcement. This Department funds, for example, the FBI, the DEA, the ATF, the U.S. Marshals, and they fund many grants to our local sheriff's and police departments—hugely important for the safety and well-being of American citizens.

We have been at this process, and we are making certain that we have done everything we can to make certain that law enforcement are adequately resourced for the protection of the American people and themselves.

Science—that is the third component of the bill I am most familiar with. Science is, among other things, NASA, our exploration of space; the study of STEM education, the opportunity to excite young men and women, boys and girls, across the country who see an astronaut in space and dream the dream of being that person in their future and, in that process, have a love for STEM education, for science, mathematics, engineering, research—something so important to the future of our Nation, something that protects us as an economy and, as importantly, protects us in our national defense.

We also invest in something called NSF, the National Science Foundation—again, where we produce products and research and information that en-

hance the quality of life, the future of our country, and our national security. It is a very, hugely important bill to the U.S. Senate, and more importantly, it is important to us because it is important to America.

So the goal this evening is to see that that bill, Commerce-Justice-Science, and the other two bills are added to the House bill that is before us that funds veterans and military construction.

So to start this process on the appropriations process—and, again, let me thank the majority leader, the Senator from South Dakota; my colleague, the vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senator from Washington, Senator MURRAY; and the chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senator from Maine, who have worked so diligently to get us to the point that we are tonight.

Nothing has been easy, but there have been significant compromises and efforts to work together at a time in which the Senate finds too many reasons to be divided. It is enjoyable to be on a committee in which, even though we have our differences and even though there have been things that have intruded on each of our desires to have something done in the committee—there have been problems that come from the outside that distract us from our ability to work together. This committee said: We acknowledge the distractions, we acknowledge the differences, but we are going to do everything this year to make certain that the appropriations process works.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, and the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that during the consideration of H.R. 3944, the Collins substitute amendment No. 3038 be considered an Appropriations Committee amendment for purposes of rule XVI, with no other rule XVI points of order waived by this agreement; that H.R. 3944, MILCON, as engrossed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2025; H.R. 4121, Ag, as reported by the House Appropriations Committee on June 25, 2025; and the bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, as reported by the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies to the House Appropriations Committee on July 15, 2025, serve as the basis for defense of germaneness under rule XVI for any floor amendments and that it be in order for floor amendments to amend the substitute in more than one place; that the following manager's package of amendments be considered and agreed to en bloc to No.

3038; that is, Paul No. 3070, Shaheen-Grassley No. 3042, Smith No. 3025, Hirono No. 3090, Rounds No. 3081, Rounds No. 3082, Budd-Shaheen No. 3072, Hawley No. 3080, Rosen-Cortez Masto No. 2975, Cornyn No. 3073, Hirono No. 3110, Shaheen No. 3041, Klobuchar No. 3121, Crapo-Rosen No. 3163, Blumenthal No. 3000; and that upon adoption of the manager's package, the only amendments in order be the following amendments, if offered, to No. 3038; and that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate vote in relation to the following amendments: Merkley No. 3114, Murphy No. 2972, Van Hollen No. 3115, Kennedy No. 3088, Kennedy No. 3089, Scott No. 3113, Scott No. 3108, Johnson No. 3079, Van Hollen No. 3126; further, that upon disposition of the amendments listed above, the Senate vote on adoption of the substitute amendment No. 3038, as amended, with a 60 affirmative vote threshold required for adoption; the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with a 60 vote affirmative threshold required for passage.

Finally, Madam President, notwithstanding passage of H.R. 3944, as amended, if amended, that it be in order to consider an amendment the text of which is identical to S. 2257, Leg Branch appropriations, the Senate vote on adoption of the amendment, and if adopted, H.R. 3944 be further amended, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

Madam President, what all those words mean is that we are taking three appropriations bills, adding them to the underlying House bill that is on the Senate floor for consideration, and that we have outlined what amendments we will adopt by a manager's package and what amendments will be made in order for consideration by the full Senate as to whether or not they should be adopted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, reserving the right to object—and I object to the end request, but I want to begin on a point of agreement, which is, other than the final request made by the good Senator from Kansas, I agree with everything he said.

As he said, we have four appropriations bills bundled together here—proposed to be bundled together here: Military Construction and Veterans; Agriculture; Leg Branch; and the Commerce, Justice, Science bill. And I have the privilege of working with Chairman MORAN on what we call the CJS bill, and it makes very important targeted investments in a whole range of areas that he described.

And, of course, one of the areas of jurisdiction of this subcommittee is the Department of Justice and the FBI.