

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:27 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 3 minutes prior to the vote.

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

NOMINATION OF ROBERT LAW

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I staunchly oppose Robert Law's nomination to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans at the Department of Homeland Security.

If confirmed, Robert Law will be responsible for developing policies for all of DHS's critical national security missions, including border security and immigration enforcement, cyber security, protecting critical infrastructure, counterterrorism, and disaster management.

This role requires someone who understands the full mission of DHS and can manage strategy across all of these components. Given his record and views, I have serious concerns about how he will carry out these responsibilities.

First, he has shown that he has limited understanding of some of DHS's most critical missions. In comments before my committee, he has maligned DHS cyber security and election security missions, and he downplayed terrorism threats that DHS is charged with countering. He has dismissed the work of key DHS components like FEMA and CISA as "off mission," and I am deeply concerned that he will abandon critical emergency management and cyber security missions that protect our communities every day.

I am also concerned about Robert Law's promotion of discriminatory travel bans and mass deportations. He has a record of working with organizations that were founded by White nationalists, whose extremist policy positions he himself has enforced and advocated for.

Robert Law currently serves as Senior Counselor to Secretary Noem and is supporting DHS's ongoing efforts to indiscriminately ramp up deportation of law-abiding individuals and families while losing focus on counterterrorism, cyber security, and disaster preparedness.

During the first Trump administration, Robert Law worked at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, where he helped implement the travel ban targeting many Muslim nations, creating, essentially, a religious test for entering the United States. Robert Law also supports ending the Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA, and has referred to Dreamers as "human shields."

To make matters worse, he denied to my committee that the Trump administration has a family separation policy when, in fact, we know that there are children who still have not been reunited with their parents.

If Robert Law is confirmed, I am concerned that he will neglect vital missions of the Department and make Americans less safe. Because of this, I strongly oppose Robert Law's nomination, and I would urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Duke nomination.

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

VOTE ON LAW NOMINATION

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

Mr. PETERS. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLLEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 507 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—46

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

Rosen	Shaheen	Warren
Sanders	Slotkin	Welch
Schatz	Smith	Whitehouse
Schiff	Warner	
Schumer	Warkock	

NOT VOTING—5

Boozman	Justice	Wyden
Johnson	Van Hollen	

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 actions.

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 assistant 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. 293, Kyle Christopher Dudek, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, John Boozman, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, James E. Risch, Bernie Moreno, Tom Cotton, Ted Budd, David McCormick, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds.

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 Kyle Christopher Dudek, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, 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 Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLLEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 508 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

Thune	Tuberville	Wicker
Tillis	Welch	Young
NAYS—44		
Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Peters
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	Kim	Schiff
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Coons	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Luján	Slotkin
Duckworth	Markey	Smith
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Fetterman	Murphy	Warnock
Gallego	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	

NOT VOTING—3

Johnson	Van Hollen	Wyden
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kyle Christopher Dudek, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

RULES CHANGE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I want to tell you a story about Tina Pierce. Tina grew up on a farm in Idaho. She was the first in her family to earn a college degree.

After earning her degree in accounting, she served in the U.S. Marines. She was deployed in Kuwait as the controller for the contingency Operation Desert Thunder.

She earned her MBA from Colorado State University. She graduated at the top of her class. She then became a CPA, a certified public accountant. She has been married 26 years. She has four children. Her husband also served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a colonel.

Why do I bring her up? Well, here is why. President Trump nominated Tina Pierce to be the Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Energy. She went through the process with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, where she was voted out in May of this year 13 to 7—pretty strong bipartisan vote.

She passed out of the committee and then has sat waiting. What is interesting for this is the Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Energy has actually never had a vote in the Senate on the floor of the Senate. It has always been a position that, in the past, went through committee, was approved in committee, and then passed on the Senate floor either by unanimous consent, a voice vote, or what is called en bloc, grouped together with other nominees and passed all in a group.

This is not the Secretary of Defense; this is not the Secretary of Energy or

the Secretary of State. This is the CFO for the Department of Energy. It is one of those 1,200 positions that the Senate must confirm but, historically, has always been confirmed in a very fast-track process after they passed out of committee. Especially when they pass out 13 to 7 out of a committee, everyone knows they are going to pass.

You see, that is the way it used to be—but not anymore. My Democratic colleagues have determined that Tina Pierce should be filibustered. So this marine, married to a marine, mom, highly qualified, graduated top of her class has to sit at home and wait as Democrats block every single nominee on the floor. So she waits since May of this year to see if the Senate can open up enough time to have a vote.

Well, that is not the only one. Jonathan Morrison was President Trump's nominee to be the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Jonathan was the first in his family to go to college. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2001, went on to law school at Notre Dame. He also got a master of laws degree in international business law from University College London.

Over his career, he has worked with automobiles. He has also served as Chief Counsel at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He is supremely qualified to be able to lead this part of the administration.

He came out of the committee in a vote of 16 to 12, but he also just sits and waits because there is not enough time.

In every administration, there are lots of nominees. There is 1,200 nominees. And everyone knows there are so many nominees, so you pick and choose which nominees you actually want to be able to debate. That is normal in every single administration.

They all have to go through the committee process, but when it comes to the floor, you don't dedicate all the floor time to different, what are called, sub-Cabinet officials. Those get fought out in committee, and then they come to the Senate floor and either pass en bloc or they pass by voice vote or unanimous consent. Or if they are highly controversial individuals, maybe we will have a floor vote on them.

It has been 200 days of this administration. Let me give you some examples of this. What is called a cloture vote, a demand to be able to go through this full, long process—under Bill Clinton, there was zero of those—zero. Were there controversial nominees? Sure, there were. But they worked through the process on that.

Under G.W. Bush, zero cloture votes that were required in the Senate. There were nine under President Obama, but then under the first President Trump administration—38, all of a sudden.

You know what we did as Republicans? We pushed back. And there were 71 under President Biden. It was kind of a tit for tat. Now our Demo-

cratic colleagues have determined this is not going to be tit for tat anymore. We are just going to shut the whole place down.

Now under President Trump, 134.

What does this really mean? This really means that we are not moving anyone across the floor unless they actually have 3 hours of floor time. That is a vote on a motion to proceed. That is 2 hours of debate time here on the floor for that person and then another vote after that. It takes a total of 3 hours to be able to do that whole process—3 hours for every single person, when you have got 1,200 people.

You would think during that time—that is, the 2 hours of debate time—we would have massive amounts of debate because if these are highly controversial nominees, of course, there is going to be debate on this floor to be able to discuss all these highly controversial people.

Well, let's talk about that. For these sub-Cabinet officials that are there—there has been 109 of them—all of them have been filibustered through the process to say they demanded. The average Democratic debate time for these 109 people has been 2 minutes—actually, technically, 2 minutes 12 seconds.

So 2 hours of time that they have demanded to debate these highly controversial people, and they have allocated 2 minutes 12 seconds, on average.

Well, interestingly enough, 81 of those 109 Democrats actually did zero debate on the floor. This was just about shutting the Senate floor down. That is all it was. This was about attacking President Trump, not acknowledging the fact that he won the election and that he should be able to actually go through the process to be able to have his staff like every other President has had.

Interestingly enough, I have had folks that have said to me: How do you actually fix this? How does this get better? Well, the first way this gets better is, typically, in the past, Republicans and Democrats would sit down together and would say: This is intolerable; we can't actually get to other bills.

You see, right now, to be able to do the 3 hours that it takes to be able to move it just with the nominees that we have in the backlog right now—not counting the 700 more nominees that are still coming in the days ahead—it would take 900 hours the rest of this year to actually move those through across the floor—900 hours.

Well, if you look at the rest of the year, the Senate would have to be actively voting and in process 80 hours a week every single week, only on nominations. That would mean we would not do the National Defense Authorization; we would not do the 12 appropriations bills; we would not do a farm bill, we would not do an FAA reauthorization; we would not do a new tax policy.

We wouldn't do anything else except nominees 80 hours a week. If we did that, we could get caught up on the