

least some of these pardons. Yet, during his hearing, he swore to this committee, under oath, that he had no involvement.

He testified, "I learned about the Governor's last minute controversial pardons in the media after we left office." He also testified that he didn't have anything to do with Governor Bevin's controversial pardons. This is demonstrably untrue.

In written questions, Mr. Meredith admitted that, at Governor Bevin's request, he had personally gone to a prison to inform two inmates, in person, that they had received pardons.

One of those inmates had committed vehicular homicide. The other had been convicted of sexually abusing his six-year-old stepdaughter.

Mr. Meredith has radical views far outside the mainstream and was not forthright with this Committee about his record. I cannot support his nomination.

VOTE ON MEREDITH NOMINATION

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

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 586 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—45

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

Shaheen	Van Hollen	Welch
Slotkin	Warnock	Whitehouse
Smith	Warren	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Blackburn	Murkowski	Warner
Kaine	Sheehy	
Moran	Sullivan	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). 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 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. 471, Rebecca L. Taibleson, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Jon Husted, Tom Cotton, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, James Lankford, Markwayne Mullin, Katie Boyd Britt, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, Pete Ricketts, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks, Eric Schmitt, Chuck Grassley.

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 Rebecca L. Taibleson, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 587 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

Sullivan	Tillis	Wicker
Thune	Tuberville	Young

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Peters
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gallego	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Moran	Schatz	Sheehy
Rounds	Shaheen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45. 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 Rebecca L. Taibleson, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARSHALL). The majority leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, just to remind our colleagues, we have had now a series of three votes, with a couple of them on judges, but one of the votes in there was on a Senator JOHNSON proposal that would have paid all Federal employees who are currently working in the middle of the shutdown.

Now, I don't know how you explain—if you have any Federal employees—how you would vote against something that would make sure, in the middle of a government shutdown, that, if they continue to work, they will get paid. That is all it was—very simple, very straightforward. For the life of me, again, I think the other side is in a very bad headspace right now to vote against something like that.

If you have any Federal employees in your State—obviously, a lot of them are here or are in this area, and all of our staffs are currently not getting paid—Senator JOHNSON tried to correct that today by calling up a bill, which we just voted on and which, once again, Democrats here in this Chamber voted against.

Now, we have had in front of us a dozen votes now on a continuing resolution that would open up the government, and it has been sitting at the desk now for some time. The House has passed it. We need five Democrats to join us and send it to the President. He will sign it into law. The government opens up. It is clean. It is nonpartisan. It has no policy riders and no partisan gimmicks attached to it. It is a straightforward continuing resolution to fund the government until a certain time.

Senator JOHNSON's was even more straightforward than that, really, because it simply said, if you are a Federal employee and you are currently working today, like everybody here in this Chamber, you will get paid.

Again, I can't explain what is going on on the other side of the aisle, but they consistently come down here and vote against paying people who are working—who are working every single day—and not getting paid. So that was the vote we had just a couple of votes ago.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time with respect to the Taibleson nomination be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader no earlier than Monday, October 27; further, that if confirmed, the motion 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 295.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jordan Emery Pratt, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

MR. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 295, Jordan Emery Pratt, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Ted Budd, Bill Hagerty, Bernie Moreno,

John R. Curtis, Jon A. Husted, Jim Justice, Ashley B. Moody, Roger Marshall, Joni Ernst, Roger F. Wicker, Ron Johnson, John Boozman.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 457.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Edmund G. LaCour, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 457, Edmund G. LaCour, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Katie Boyd Britt, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Jon A. Husted, Eric Schmitt, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Ted Budd, John R. Curtis, John Boozman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). The Senator from South Carolina.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, there are a couple of topics that I would like to talk about. The first is the government shutdown.

I don't know what my friends on the other side expect. We will talk about the Affordable Care Act at the right time, starting with the idea that it is not affordable. You created a law without any Republican votes. You had the subsidies, and they expire. That was your choice. Most of us believe that the ObamaCare Program you created is very expensive, and we are not going to extend it. We would look at trying to make it better. The President has a brilliant idea of how better to use the money to help consumers.

Senator MARSHALL just left. So, whether you open the government up

or not, I am not going to change my vote. I am not going to vote to authorize these subsidies as they are. I am not going to vote to repeal the good work we did under the Big Beautiful Bill. So let's open up the government and talk. If you don't want to do that, then a lot of people are going to have their lives turned upside down for no good reason.

I do not feel like we should be held hostage here to get a legislative outcome to open up the government. We tried that as Republicans: You have got to build a wall or we won't open the government. It was probably not a good idea for us. It didn't work out well for us. If nothing else, learn from what we did.

So I am hoping the government will open soon. It is a dangerous time to have the Federal Government not functioning in the security space, and it is a danger for air travel, but if you haven't noticed, the world is a pretty dangerous place.

CHINA AND RUSSIA

So, Madam President, I want to talk about two things: China and Russia.

President Trump is traveling to South Korea, and I think he is going to meet the Chinese President Xi. I don't mind talking with people that I disagree with. I like the fact that President Trump has reached out to adversaries and tried to find common ground to end conflicts that have been very destructive.

When it comes to President Trump and Russia, he has made a full-court press to try to get Russia at the table to find a way to end the bloodbath in Ukraine, to make it an outcome that is acceptable to all parties. I don't think President Trump is out to humiliate Putin at all, but he does want to end the war in a way that we don't have a third invasion. So I appreciate what he has done, and it has been a very aggressive effort to engage the parties.

In the past, we have kind of ignored Putin. I don't think that is the right solution. But we have come to a point now where every time President Trump talks about a proposal to end the bloodbath, Putin has a reason not to get there.

The latest proposal by President Trump is to have a cease-fire in place, stop the fighting, stop the killing at the line of contact, go back to your respective sides, and we will sit down and find a way forward to get a comprehensive deal. That is the best proposal I have heard from anybody. Ukraine said yes. Europe said yes. Putin says no.

Putin continues to attack Ukraine. They show no indication of wanting to stop this war until they meet their war aims.

Let me tell Russia: Your war aims are not going to be accepted by the United States and Ukraine.

Putin said today that he would respond fiercely if we increase the lethality of the Ukrainian military.

Well, you have said that a lot. I want the war to end. I don't want anything