

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

Russia has. I just want the war to end in an honorable and just way. So if you expect Ukraine to give you territory that you don't occupy today that would create a pathway to Kyiv in the future, make them very vulnerable to a third invasion, it is not going to happen.

I know Putin could care less about how many Russians die. They say a million casualties—I don't know. Who knows? I know this: His respect for life is pretty low. North Koreans, people from all over the Russian provinces have been thrown into the meat grinder, and he could really care less. He does care about his own lifestyle. Beyond that, I don't think he could care less.

His economy is selling cheap oil and gas to fuel his war machine. He is selling gas and oil well below market prices—Putin—to get the money to continue the attack on Ukraine. So President Trump and myself and many others here are suggesting to those who buy cheap Russian oil and gas: Stop it so we can find a way to get Putin to the peace table.

The largest three customers buying Russian oil and gas that do not help Ukraine are China, India, and Brazil. If those three customers told Putin that it is time to wind this war down, then I think the war would be over pretty quickly because without oil and gas money, he can't prosecute the war.

I understand wanting to buy cheap Russian oil, but I don't understand a country that buys cheap Russian oil knowing it is going to be used to kill innocent people and acquire land from others by force of arms.

I have been told that our friends in India are very proud.

You have a lot to be proud of.

I have been told that our friends in India are trying to find a way to be less dependent on Russian oil.

To our friends in India: Well done.

Before the invasion by Putin, India was buying 3 percent of their oil from Russia. After the invasion, it went up to almost 30 percent. Why? They were buying it at below market prices from Russia, refining it in India, and selling it at a profit. That is not something to be proud of.

I am hopeful that you are going to abandon that practice to get us to a place where we can end the war in Russia and stop the killing. So there is some progress there.

As to China, if President Xi called Putin tomorrow and said "It is now time to wind this conflict down; you need to get to the peace table," I think Putin would not have much of a choice. China is the No. 1 customer of Russian oil. If they made a decision tomorrow to change that practice, then I think Putin's ability to prosecute the war would hit a wall.

President Trump is going to talk to Xi hopefully here soon, and there will be a lot of issues on the table.

As to China, it is a communist dictatorship. I am no fan of the Chinese

Communist Party. To say otherwise would be misleading. Having said that, there are times we could do business with China for the betterment of all of us. This is one of those times.

I am hoping that when President Trump meets with President Xi, if that happens, that he will be able to persuade President Xi: It is now time to end the bloodbath in Ukraine. I need your help to get Putin to the table.

To China: If you are able to do that, I think it would open up opportunities between you, the United States—China and the United States—and the Western world to have a better relationship.

If China wants to be a meaningful member of the international community and wants to be treated better, then act better.

If you want to be treated normally, act normal.

To China: You have the power to help end this war. I would urge you to work with President Trump to achieve that goal.

It will make the world a better place, and I think it would inure to the benefit of China.

Sanctions were put on two of the largest oil companies in Russia yesterday by Secretary Bessent at the direction of President Trump. I think President Trump has come to believe that Putin doesn't want a cease-fire at the line of contact, and everybody but him does. I hope President Trump's new policy will be: I am not going to talk to Russia anymore until they agree to a cease-fire at the line of contact like Ukraine has. Once that agreement is reached, then we would sit down and try to end this war.

I hope he will tell President Xi: If you have the chance to help me in this war, please do.

I, along with the Presiding Officer of the Senate and many of us—85 cosponsors—we have legislation allowing President Trump, at his choice, to impose tariffs on countries that buy cheap Russian oil to prop up Putin's war machine that don't help Ukraine, and that would be China. So President Trump has used tariffs robustly, I think, to the benefit of our country. If he decides to go down the road of going after Putin's customers, he would have the blessing of the Congress, the House and the Senate.

I can't think of an issue that has brought us together as a body in the Senate more than the desire to end this war in Ukraine and to use all the tools available to help President Trump get Putin's attention.

The fact that Democratic colleagues, who are probably not a big fan of this President, are willing to empower the President to have tariff authority given to him by the Congress that would be bulletproof in court speaks well to them, and it speaks loudly to the idea that the Senate is united when it comes to standing up to Putin and those who prop him up to end this bloodbath.

This bill has been around for a long time. People ask me all the time: What is going to happen?

I think President Trump has made a decision that a cease-fire in place is the right way to start discussions about how to end the war, and I hope he will stick with that position.

I would expect the Senate to move the legislation I have just described—the Russian Sanctions Act that allows secondary tariffs against countries that buy cheap Russian oil—I would expect us to move that fairly soon.

The Senate also has passed legislation making Russia a state sponsor of terrorism under U.S. law. There are four countries that fall into that category. Russia would be the fifth for kidnapping over 19,000 Ukrainian children in the occupied areas.

This is a very big deal to many of us. We have gone to Ukraine. We have heard the stories that Russia has occupied about 20-something percent of Ukraine, and they have literally taken Ukrainian children from their families and sent them to Russia, to indoctrination camps to turn these Ukrainian children against their own country. It is despicable. And it is not 200; I do believe the number is closer to 20,000. We have a lot of evidence, and I will have a hearing in the Foreign Operations Subcommittee about it.

The bill making Russia a state sponsor of terrorism for kidnapping the children went through the Foreign Relations Committee yesterday unanimously. It is ready to come to the floor.

I can't think of a better description of Putin's Russia than a "state sponsor of terrorism."

You have earned that distinction. Now, if you will turn the children over, that goes away.

But he denies, really, the fact that he has taken Ukrainian children away from their families to Russia, but he is lying. He is lying through his teeth.

So that is coming.

There is \$300 billion of frozen Russian assets overseas, and we have legislation here—Senator KENNEDY and others—that would take that money for the benefit of Ukraine.

All three of these pieces of legislation are ripe. They are ready to go. After this last rebuff by Putin of President Trump, now is the time to act.

There was supposed to be a meeting in Budapest between President Trump and President Putin. Well, that is off now because the goal was to have a cease-fire at the line of contact. Ukraine said yes immediately. Come to find out that Russia has not changed its position at all. So I don't think that meeting is going to occur, and that is a good thing. No more meeting Putin until he changes his behavior.

I think now is the time to put pressure on Putin's war machine economically. Now is the time to make Ukraine more lethal when it comes to defending itself—the Tomahawks. President Trump is right—it is a complicated weapon system—but I would like to see some Tomahawks transferred to Europe and start a training program so

that Ukrainians would one day be able to utilize these weapons.

Now, why do we want that weapon? It could go deep into Russia and knock out factories that make drones that come from Iran and to destroy missile factories that are used to terrorize the Ukrainian people at night.

I think we have a moment here to act decisively with our European partners. I appreciate what President Trump has done to try to solve this conflict through diplomacy. I appreciate what he has done to make Ukraine more lethal, providing more weapons by selling to Europe weapons to the benefit of Ukraine. I appreciate the sanctions that were imposed yesterday, and I think they are having a beneficial effect already. But I think we need to do more.

So as President Trump engages President Xi, it is my hope that the Chinese would change their position about this war and work with President Trump to get Putin's attention to find a way to end the bloodbath honorably and justly.

Why do I keep talking about China? There is no way Putin can prosecute this war if China decided to isolate Russia and stop buying their oil. And we would find ways to help China with their oil needs so they wouldn't be at a loss. If that happened, then this war would end pretty quickly.

To President Trump: Good luck. I am glad you are talking to China about a bunch of things, including trade. I am sure you will talk about the recent efforts of the Chinese Communist Party to go after Christians in an unprecedented way in China. The Christian church is under assault.

We have a lot of differences with China, but if China wants to change its relationship with the United States, you have a chance in the next few days to do it in a positive way.

To China: If I and others believed that you used your influence with Putin to end this bloodbath in Ukraine, it would be to the benefit of you over time, and I would respond differently than I have in the past. I think Western Europe would respond differently than they have in the past.

So this is an opportunity for China to do something good for the world. You have it in your power to get Putin's attention unlike anybody else on the planet. I would urge you to use that power to end the bloodbath.

If you choose to continue to buy cheap Russian oil to fuel Putin's war machine, to benefit your economy, then you should not be surprised that we push back hard. It is your choice.

But I am speaking for most everybody in this body, where we believe the time has come for China, India, and Brazil to stop profiting off this war. The time has come to end this bloodbath.

To China, India, and Brazil: You have the power, if you would use it, to get Putin's attention like no one else on the planet.

To India: You are definitely moving in the right direction.

China made some announcements today about maybe reducing their purchases of Russian oil. All of this is good.

The reason I keep talking about this is I concluded that, unlike anybody else on the planet, China can, if they choose to, help us end this war better than anybody. So I am appealing to President Xi to help President Trump end a war that should have been ended a long time ago.

I am very concerned that if this war continues, then the relationship between the United States and China is going to get worse, not better. And I seek it to be better.

The Presiding Officer has been involved in everything I have just said.

You have been one of the leading champions of protecting the Ukrainian children kidnapped by the Russians. You are one of the first people that sponsored the legislation. You have been to Ukraine numerous times. I know the Presiding Officer has a personal relationship with Ukraine that goes back to a long time ago when you were actually involved in Ukraine and Ukrainian families, spending some time there. You have been a strong, consistent voice that Russia needs to stop; we need to end the war, not continue the war.

My Senate colleagues, you have been asking me a long time: When are we going to move your bill?

It is not my bill; it is our bill. The time has come. I am hoping—and I believe the majority leader agrees—that the time has come. We will wait to see what happens in China, but if nothing changes in China, then we need to have a week, I believe, of where this body focuses on applying pressure against Russia to end this conflict to the betterment of the world.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

REMEMBERING RICHARD MOE

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, I rise today to honor my friend and great American Richard Moe, whom we lost to Parkinson's disease at the age of 88 on September 15 of this year.

Dick leaves behind a legacy that shaped Minnesota and our country and my own life and career.

Madam President, I understand that some of Richard Moe's family are visiting us in the Gallery today, and I want to, through the Presiding Officer, welcome them to the Chamber.

From leading Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party at only 32, to serving as chief adviser to Walter Mondale in the Senate and the White House, to spending 17 years as president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Dick leaves behind a remarkable legacy of public service.

Dick was born in Duluth, MN—fondly called the San Francisco of the Great Lakes, to those of us who love it. He was born there in 1936. He became ac-

tive in Minnesota politics at a very young age, at 24, and right out of college, he volunteered to be a driver for Minneapolis mayor Hubert Humphrey when he was running first for the Senate. Dick was, as I said, Humphrey's driver and reportedly was so nervous driving the great man around that he drove Humphrey right into a gate at one point—an event that, thankfully, was not a career-ending move for him.

A few years later, when he was only 32, Humphrey recruited Dick to lead Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, and there, Dick showed really exceptional political intuition and skill, where he led Minnesota Democrats to win majorities in the State legislature for the first time ever.

His political and organizing skills caught the eye of Senator Walter Mondale, who recruited Dick to come work on the Washington staff, and soon Dick became Mr. Mondale's chief of staff and one of his closest advisers.

Among his many accomplishments, Dick continued to show prescient political insight by hiring a bright-eyed, young Minnesotan named AMY KLOBUCHAR to be an intern for Walter Mondale. AMY will be here to tell you the rest of the story.

I think it is fair to say that Dick loved the Senate, and he believed strongly in the power of this institution to do good in people's lives. He understood that politics is about making the very most of the power that you have, for good.

One of my favorite stories comes from 1976, when Jimmy Carter was considering Walter Mondale to be Vice President. Fritz balked at the idea at first. He had heard some of the horror stories about how LBJ treated his friend Hubert Humphrey, and he was very negative to the idea of the Vice Presidency. But Dick encouraged Mondale to keep an open mind, and then he invited Humphrey over to the Senate to talk the whole idea through. And Humphrey was really clear. He said: Fritz, you will get more done up there in 2 days than you will get done here in 2 years.

So Fritz and Joan and Dick, as I understand it, went down to Plains, GA, to meet the Carters. Now, Fritz always said that Joan charmed the Carters and that sealed the deal, and I am sure that there is a lot of truth to that, but after that meeting, Dick told Mr. Mondale that he needed to write down on paper what he wanted the job of Vice President to be. So the two of them talked, and then Dick drafted a memo that laid out the template for the modern Vice Presidency.

After the election, they presented their ideas to President-elect Carter, and Carter agreed. With that memo, what had been a torture to Hubert Humphrey was reimagined by Walter Mondale and Jimmy Carter, thanks to Dick Moe.

Vice President Mondale had an office in the West Wing because they understood that proximity to the Oval and