

VOTE ON WEAVER NOMINATION

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Weaver nomination?

Mr. CASSIDY. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 652 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Banks	Hassan	Murkowski
Barrasso	Hawley	Ossoff
Blackburn	Heinrich	Padilla
Boozman	Hoeben	Paul
Britt	Husted	Reed
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cassidy	Justice	Rounds
Collins	Kelly	Schiff
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cotton	Kim	Scott (FL)
Cramer	King	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cruz	Lankford	Sheehy
Curtis	Lee	Slotkin
Daines	Lummis	Sullivan
Duckworth	Marshall	Thune
Ernst	McConnell	Tillis
Fetterman	McCormick	Tuberville
Fischer	Merkley	Welch
Gallego	Moody	Whitehouse
Graham	Moran	Wicker
Grassley	Moreno	Young
Hagerty	Mullin	

NAYS—29

Alsobrooks	Gillibrand	Sanders
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kaine	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Van Hollen
Booker	Markey	Warner
Cantwell	Murphy	Warnock
Coons	Murray	Warren
Cortez Masto	Peters	Wyden
Durbin	Rosen	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the nominations en bloc pursuant to S. Res. 532.

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

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, and the provisions of S. Res. 532 (119th Congress), do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar Nos.: 166, 267, 354, 429, 430, 431, 432, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 461, 462, 463, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 486, 488, 489, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 516, 517, 518, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528,

529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, en bloc.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Jon A. Husted, Lindsey Graham, James E. Risch, Lisa Murkowski, Bill Hagerty, Todd Young, Markwayne Mullin, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, David McCormick, John Boozman, John Barrasso, Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, Josh Hawley.

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 en bloc nominations, provided under the provisions of S. Res. 532, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 653 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	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	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—47

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

Closure having been invoked pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 532, the nominations listed therein are pending en bloc.

With respect to the Weaver nomination, 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.

The Senator from Louisiana.

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes about money—money, money, money—people's money.

Like the Presiding Officer, I have learned a few things in life. I want to

mention two. No. 1, money does not buy happiness. No. 2, poverty does not buy a damned thing, and that is the theme of my few minutes as I talk today.

This is about people's money, and it has to do with unredeemed, uncashed savings bonds.

Now, the Presiding Officer knows what I mean when I talk about a bond. Usually, when we are talking on the Senate floor, we are talking about Treasury bonds or Treasury bills or Treasury notes. I want to talk about a different kind of bond today. It is the same principle but a different animal. It is called a savings bond.

Savings bonds used to be very, very popular in America, particularly in the last century, particularly during World War II. They are less popular today because there are so many other ways to earn interest on your money, although many people still believe in savings bonds. I do. It is a great way to invest your money.

What am I talking about when I say a savings bond as opposed to a Treasury bond? Well, let's take the example of one particular savings bond. It is called an EE U.S. savings bond.

A savings bond is just a loan to the Federal Government. Suppose I have \$1,000, and I want to loan it to the Federal Government because the Federal Government will pay me interest. I could go to the Federal Government and say: I am going to loan you \$1,000.

The Federal Government would say: Thank you very much. Here is your EE U.S. savings bond.

This is how it would work: The Federal Government would guarantee me that after 20 years, my \$1,000 would double. So I would hand them—"them" meaning the government—\$1,000, and 20 years from now, I would get back \$2,000.

If I didn't really need my money after 20 years, I could let the government keep it—loan it to the government, if you will—for another 10 years, and they would continue paying me interest.

Now, there are two things you need to note about what I just talked about, this EE savings bond.

No. 1, unlike a regular corporate bond, when I loan that \$1,000 to the Federal Government and get back an EE U.S. savings bond, I don't get periodic interest payments. The interest accrues and it compounds. When I give the government \$1,000, I don't get quarterly interest payments, but at the end of the 20 years, I get back \$2,000. Roughly, in today's market, I am making about 2.7 percent a year, but it is very, very safe. If you believe in the sovereignty of the Federal Government—our Federal Government being part of the wealthiest country in all of human history—then it is a pretty safe investment.

The other thing you need to note about the savings bond, in addition to the fact that they don't pay me periodic interest—I get all my interest

when I get my principal back at the end of 20 years—is that at some point, as in the example I just gave, after 30 years, the Federal Government stops paying me interest; interest stops accruing. So if I loan the Federal Government \$1,000, and after 20 years, interest is accrued, if I want to, I can redeem my savings bond, and they will give me \$2,000. Maybe I say “OK, I will re-up another 10 years and continue to earn interest,” but 30 years is the limit. After 30 years, if I don’t redeem my bond, I am loaning money to the Federal Government interest-free, and that would be a dumb thing to do.

But not everybody redeems their bonds. A lot of people don’t—more people than you would imagine. Life comes at us pretty fast. You know, you buy a savings bond or maybe your grandparents or your parents buy you a bond when you are young. You grow up, you get married, you have kids, and you get a job and then you change jobs. You move around the country. A lot of people forget those savings bonds. They still own the savings bonds, but they just forget to redeem them, so the government just has an interest-free loan.

Here is what I am driving at: Right now, over in the U.S. Department of the Treasury, there are 100 million unredeemed savings bonds. It is money that belongs to the American people. It is no longer earning interest. There are 100 million savings bonds. There are only 340 million people in America, so it is a little less than a third of the people in America—although I realize some may be deceased—who have one of these savings bonds, where the Federal Government owes them money, but the money is just sitting there, and the Federal Government is using it, and they are not paying people interest.

The total amount of these unredeemed savings bonds is \$36.27 billion.

And that \$36 billion has been there a long, long time because people have either died or they have forgotten that they have these unredeemed savings bonds.

Now, this is very uncool.

A few years ago, back in 2023, I introduced a bill which actually passed; I got it passed. It said to the Federal Government, specifically, the U.S. Department of the Treasury: You have got to give this money back. You have got the names of people on these bonds. In many cases, you have the addresses. In a lot of cases, you have the serial numbers.

Why are you just sitting on this \$36 billion, these 100 million bonds? Why don’t you contact people and give them their money?

And they said: KENNEDY, you don’t understand. First of all, they said, our records are a mess. Some of these bonds go back—I don’t know—75 years before there were computers. The Treasury Department said to me: The records are not digitized. We would have to comb through boxes and boxes

and boxes to get names and addresses, and it is just—it is just a lot of trouble.

I said: Well, I feel your pain, but you still ought to return the money to people.

So here is what I am going to do: I am going to introduce a bill—and I did, and I passed it—that says the Federal Government has got to return this money to the people to whom it is owed. In that bill, I provided money for the U.S. Department of the Treasury to digitize those records, to go out and hire a consultant to go through all the records and put them in the database so they can be easily searched.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has done that. I want to thank them. Hasn’t been the easiest thing I have ever done. I worked with Secretary Mnuchin first and then Secretary Yellen and now Secretary Bessent and all of the good women and men who work for them. But we finally have gotten it done.

Here is what we are ready to do. We are ready to turn the names and addresses and serial numbers over to the treasurer of every State—in Louisiana, in West Virginia, and every other State. We are going to give them the names and addresses and serial numbers so they can contact people in their State and say: The Federal Government has your money, and we want to get it back to you.

Why are we doing it that way through the States instead of just telling the U.S. Department of the Treasury to start calling people up? Well, because the States are very experienced.

Every State has what is called an Unclaimed Property Program. What is an Unclaimed Property Program? Well, every State has a law that says if a business—usually, it is a business, not always—but if a business has your money and it can’t find you, that business can’t keep it.

At the end of a certain period of time—usually 3 to 4 years—that business has got to turn that money over to the State—it is called unclaimed property—and the State has got to help give it back to people.

What am I talking about? Let’s say a utility deposit—happens all the time. People move into an apartment. They post a utility deposit with the electricity company. They move. They forget to get their deposit back.

Apartment deposit works the same way. Tax refunds. Stocks. Maybe you own a stock, and it is being held by your brokerage company and you move and you don’t leave a forwarding address or the forwarding address expires. That security company can’t—that brokerage can’t just keep that stock. That brokerage turns that stock over to the State treasurer of every State, and it is their job to return it to people.

Let me tell you something, the States do a marvelous job. You can go to every single State right now—just Google it—and find the State’s unclaimed property program, and you can

go spend a few minutes. You put in your name. You can put in your parent’s name. You can put in your friend’s name. You can put in the name of the town in which you were raised and find people who are owed unclaimed property. The treasurers do a great job of getting it back.

They not only have websites, but they advertise—and toll free numbers. They just do a wonderful job of getting money back to people. When I was State treasurer of Louisiana, I was in charge of Louisiana’s Unclaimed Property Program, and I was there for 17 years. I think I returned \$400, \$500 million to the people of Louisiana. I had a whole unclaimed property section, men and women who would contact people all day long, and we had a very sophisticated database.

So that is why the U.S. Department of the Treasury, under my legislation, is not going to give this money back itself. It is going to return—or give the information to the treasurer of every State, and the treasurer of every State is going to be in charge of contacting people.

We have gone through this. We have been working on it. I passed the bill in 2023, I think, but we worked on it for 2 years prior to that. But we are almost home. What now we have to do is get the State treasurers to sign an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

All the State treasurers have to do is sign an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Treasury to cooperate. The Treasury will send them the names, and we can start returning this money to people.

I am going to be sending another letter out in short order to all the State treasurers asking them to go ahead and sign that user agreement with the Treasury Department so we can start getting this money back to people.

It is free money. And remember, there are 100 million bonds, 340 million people in America, \$36 billion that is owed to the American people that the Federal Government has just been sitting on that hasn’t been returned. And now we are going to start doing it, if I can just get our State treasurers to turn in these user agreements. Some of them have but others have not yet. You may not get a check for Christmas, but if you hurry up, you can get a check in January or February so you can pay some bills.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIS DELONY

Mr. President, the second thing I want to talk about, I just want to give an attaboy to a young man—he is not young anymore—that I grew up with. His name is Professor Willis Delony.

I grew up with him in Zachary, LA. Professor Delony is a remarkable talent. God has blessed him with so much talent. He is the Boyd Professor of Piano and Jazz Studies in the School of Music at LSU. He has been there since 2000, 24 years.

Before that, he taught at Southeastern Louisiana University and Delta State University.