

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joshua Simmons, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 70, 574, and 476, and that the mandatory quorums be waived; further, if cloture is invoked on the nominations individually, all postcloture time be expired, and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations and the Simmons nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than January 5, 2026; finally, if confirmed, the motions 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.

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. 70, Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz, Deb Fischer, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Tim Sheehy, Katie Boyd Britt, Jame E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Jon Husted.

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 Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, 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 Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 657 Ex.]

YEAS—58

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

NAYS—36

Alsobrooks	Hassan	Padilla
Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Collins	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Gallego	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Hawley	Warnock
Durbin	Smith	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MCCORMICK). On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 36.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

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. 574, Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

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 Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 658 Ex.]

YEAS—60

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

NAYS—35

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kelly	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Schiff
Cantwell	Markey	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Slotkin
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Fetterman	Murray	Warner
Gallego	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Smith	Warren
Durbin	Warnock	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 35. 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 Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

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. 476, Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, John Barrasso,

Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz, Deb Fischer, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Tim Sheehy, Katie Boyd Britt, James E. Risch.

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 Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, 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 Utah (Mr. CURTIS).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 659 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—7

Booker	Kelly	Whitehouse
Curtis	Smith	
Durbin	Warren	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 42. 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 Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, when I became majority leader, I made it very clear that I was committed to funding the government through the regular order consideration of appropriations bills, not through an omnibus or long-term CR, oftentimes written behind closed doors.

The regular order process gives Senators from both parties the fullest chance to make their voices and the voices of their constituents heard, which is why I am disappointed that we will not be moving to our second package of appropriations bills tonight.

Republicans were ready to go, but, unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues are not there yet. Hopefully, they will get there.

Republicans have worked hard all year to get us back to taking up appropriations bills through regular order. We had a positive start with the Senate passing three appropriations bills before the August State work period, something that hadn't been done here since 2018.

Then we hit a setback when Democrats decided to shut the government down for 6 weeks. That was disappointing, obviously.

But I want this body to know that I remain as committed as ever to funding the government through the regular order process. And when we come back, after the holidays, we are going to redouble our efforts to get this government funded and prevent any repeat of the Democratic shutdown.

I hope that my Democrat colleagues will join us. I hear them speaking to that effect, and I will take them at face value. And I hope that we can work together to fund the government in the way it should be funded, through regular order and the appropriations process.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NOMINATIONS EN BLOC

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, while I voted No on S. Res. 532, which calls for an up or down vote on 97 nominations, en bloc, I would have voted yea on the following nominations if I had the opportunity to vote on each nomination separately:

1. Calendar Number 429: Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.
2. Calendar Number 430: Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.
3. Calendar Number 431: Amy Henninger, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

4. Calendar Number 432: David Denton, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

5. Calendar Number 454: Jonathan Burke, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury.

6. Calendar Number 461: Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

7. Calendar Number 470: James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

8. Calendar Number 478: Dominick Gerace II, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years.

9. Calendar Number 479: Jerome Francis Gorgon, Jr., of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of 4 years.

10. Calendar Number 480: Bryan Stirling, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of 4 years.

11. Calendar Number 518: Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense.

12. Calendar Number 522: Peter Metzger, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

13. Calendar Number 524: Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services.

14. Calendar Number 525: Stephen F. Rickard, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

15. Calendar Number 526: Elana S. Suttenberg, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

16. Calendar Number 527: John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

17. Calendar Number 529: Robert Kadlec, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

18. Calendar Number 530: Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

19. Calendar Number 531: Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

20. Calendar Number 532: Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

21. Calendar Number 533: David Beck, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

22. Calendar Number 535: Michael Borders, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

23. Calendar Number 536: William Lane III, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

24. Calendar Number 538: James Caggy, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. (New Position)

25. Calendar Number 539: Timothy Dill, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

26. Calendar Number 540: Michael Payne, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense.

27. Calendar Number 541: Maurice Todd, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

28. Calendar Number 551: Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.