

UBS also took legal action against the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Last week, thank God, a Federal court in New York issued a ruling against UBS's efforts. However, if the bank were successful in that court case, it could have blocked the Simon Wiesenthal Center from fully speaking on all Holocaust issues—very much a violation of First Amendment rights of freedom of speech.

Following the committee hearing, UBS failed to fully and completely respond to all questions for the record submitted by members of the Judiciary Committee.

Now, I am going to talk about a Mr. Karofsky, different than Mr. Barofsky. Mr. Karofsky is president of UBS Americas. He literally failed to answer any questions posed directly to him. His disrespect for the committee is noted.

So be on notice, Mr. Karofsky.

So I kept the hearing record open, and this week, I have sent additional questions for the record to the bank, UBS, and to others. Mr. Barofsky, as opposed to Mr. Karofsky, has since provided supplemental responses.

He has informed the committee that UBS has refused to investigate credible leads on Nazis and their facilitators, looting of Jewish assets, and facilitation of ratlines. He has also told the committee that UBS has imposed an arbitrary July 31, 2026, deadline for completing this investigative work.

Certainly, as I am an investigator, I understand timelines and deadlines. But I also know that you can't enforce deadlines at the expense of quality of the investigation.

UBS has taken the position that it, in and of itself, will decide what they are going to do to cooperate after the current investigation concludes, whether to investigate remaining leads.

Now, this Senator was born at night, but not last night. UBS needs to quit playing games and get the job done right away. UBS has spent millions of dollars on investigative work. Why not investigate these Nazi evils right now? What are they trying to hide? UBS's current position will unnecessarily create a cloud of doubt over the final report of investigation.

As I said in March, I plan to call a followup hearing before the end of this year. My goal is that this hearing will bring closure to the investigation in a way that brings justice to the Jewish community and the victims of the Holocaust.

UBS's conduct is interfering with that ultimate goal. And given their recent national chartered bank approval by the U.S. Government, UBS has a heightened responsibility to be fully forthcoming on this matter.

I urge them to get back on the right side, where they once were, because it looked like we had very faithful and dedicated communication by the bank to our investigation. And why all this impeding of further investigation, I don't understand.

I encourage Mr. Barofsky and the Simon Wiesenthal Center to keep my investigative team updated on all ongoing matters, whether it is good or whether it is bad. This Senator's efforts to expose Nazi evils will not stop. I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF JOHN THOMAS SHEPHERD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Judge John Shepherd to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas.

I am concerned by Judge Shepherd's overall lack of experience. He has served on the Arkansas State bench for just over a year. Prior to that, he practiced law for just 12 years. By his own admission, only half of his legal practice actually involved litigation.

In addition, Judge Shepherd has stated that less than 5 percent of his experience as a litigator took place in Federal court.

Litigants in Federal trial courts should have confidence that the judges overseeing their cases are experts in Federal practice and procedure. Judge Shepherd simply does not have adequate experience for litigants in the Western District of Arkansas to feel they have received a fair hearing before him.

For these reasons, I oppose Judge Shepherd's nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today I urge my Senate colleagues to vote to confirm the nomination of the Honorable John Thomas Shepherd for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas.

Throughout his career, Judge Shepherd has worked to uphold the rule of law, preserve public safety, and keep crime out of our State. Whether representing the people as a prosecuting attorney, presiding from the bench as a circuit judge, or practicing law in the private sector, Judge Shepherd has handled a wide range of cases with an exceptional track record.

Those who know Judge Shepherd can attest to his professionalism, his commitment to serving Arkansans, and his dedication to his family, many of whom have also answered the call to public service.

A native of El Dorado, Judge Shepherd is also a leader in his community, serving as a volunteer youth coach for the Boys & Girls Club, a radio color analyst for the El Dorado High School football team, and an active member of his church.

I am pleased to support Judge Shepherd's nomination, and I urge my Senate colleagues to vote to support his confirmation as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled rollcall begin immediately.

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

VOTE ON SHEPHERD NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Shepherd nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 76 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	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	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—1

Bennet

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). 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 senior 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. 674, Christopher R. Wolfe, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

John Thune, Bill Hagerty, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, Tommy

Tuberville, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Kevin Cramer, James Lankford, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Crapo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Christopher R. Wolfe, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN: I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 77 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet Gallego

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45. 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 Christopher R. Wolfe, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete this unanimous consent request before we recess.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last month, America lost a man who devoted his life to serving America. Robert Mueller passed away on March 20. He left behind an amazing legacy of patriotism, honesty, integrity, and courage.

In 1968, at the height of the Vietnam war, Robert Mueller chose to enlist in the Marine Corps. He was a rifle platoon leader. Years later, he said that of all his accomplishments in life, he was “most proud the Marine Corps deemed me worthy of leading other Marines.”

He earned a Bronze Star for valor when his platoon was ambushed, suffering multiple casualties. He rescued—personally rescued—a wounded marine. He earned a Purple Heart after being wounded by enemy fire while leading his platoon to rescue soldiers who were pinned down by the enemy.

While Mr. Mueller’s time in the Marines ended in 1970, that is far from the end of his service to this country. After his military service, Robert Mueller became a lawyer and spent most of his life in public service.

A lifelong Republican—a lifelong Republican—he served for many years as a prosecutor and senior Justice Department official under both Republican and Democratic Presidents alike.

Throughout the 1990s, Mr. Mueller would serve in various positions at the Department of Justice, working as a senior litigator in the Homicide Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia and as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of California. Mueller’s work won him the admiration of both President George W. Bush and the U.S. Senate.

One week before September 11, 2001, Bob Mueller was sworn in as Director of the FBI. In the aftermath of the horrific 9/11 terrorist attack, Bob Mueller worked tirelessly to make our Nation safe.

Director Mueller led the FBI in a tumultuous time. After the worst terror attack in American history, Bob Mueller more than any single individual was responsible for modernizing the FBI to combat the threats that we face in the 21st century. It was my honor to support him in that effort.

It is no surprise that when his term with the FBI was set to expire in 2011, President Obama asked the Senate to extend Mueller’s term by 2 years. The vote in the Senate was unanimous—100 to nothing—in favor of Bob Mueller, as it should have been.

Mr. Mueller left the FBI in 2013, and even that was not the end of his service to the American people. In 2017, Director Mueller was asked to serve his Nation one last time. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, a Trump appointee, asked Mueller to serve as special counsel to investigate Russia’s efforts to interfere in the 2016 election.

While my colleagues and I have spent many years debating the merits of the

Mueller report, his work on Russia’s interference in the 2016 election and throughout his time at DOJ and FBI demonstrates true character, hard work, courage, honesty, professionalism, and a dedication to our Constitution.

In honor of his legacy, I introduced a resolution with my colleagues from Virginia, his home State, that recognizes the contributions Bob Mueller made to our Nation. I will now make a unanimous consent request to pass the resolution.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII and as if in legislative session, the Senate proceed to the consideration of my resolution, which is at the desk; further, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, of all the things that the U.S. Senate should be focusing on today, like funding DHS and paying our TSA agents or protecting our elections with the SAVE America Act, Democrats instead are bringing yet again another resolution that is a clear political potshot against President Trump. Democrats are more interested today in rehashing their failed attempt to delegitimize the 2016 election a decade ago than in bettering our great country.

The fact of the matter is, the reputation of Robert Mueller is a mixed bag, and the end result of the Mueller investigation that my colleague just talked about was a farce.

What has always remained constant is that Democrats just can’t accept that Donald Trump won the election in 2016 fair and square. Ten years after that historic victory, Democrats are still complaining about it and advancing their Russian collusion hoax. Democrats know that the Russian collusion hoax was their attempt to undermine President Trump. They knew and they know now that it has been debunked time and time again.

The Mueller investigation was meant to stop President Trump and derail his agenda that he was elected by the American people to advance in 2016, and it was very costly to the American people and to this great country.

Robert Mueller will always be intertwined with the Russian collusion hoax that greatly damaged this country.

This resolution adds fuel to a fire that really burned out a long time ago. It is just another political hit job at President Trump, and I am not going to go along with it today.

There are so many more important things that we should be doing on the floor today—again, like funding DHS or protecting our elections. Mr. President, therefore, I object.