

AMENDMENT NO. 6738 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6732

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the underlying bill at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6738 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 6732.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6739 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6738

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6739 to amendment No. 6738.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 6740

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations to report back forthwith with instructions with an amendment numbered 6740.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to commit with instructions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6741

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6741 to the instructions of a motion to commit H.R. 6500.

The amendment is as follows:

(To improve the bill)

Strike "5 days" and insert "6 days".

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6742 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6741

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6742 to amendment No. 6741.

The amendment is as follows:

(To improve the bill)

Strike "6 days" and insert "7 days".

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk with respect to amendment No. 6732.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Collins amendment No. 6732 to Calendar No. 320, H.R. 6500, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Susan M. Collins, Tim Sheehy, Bill Hagerty, Bernie Moreno, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Marsha Blackburn, James Lankford, Jim Banks, Jon A. Husted, Tom Cotton, Alan Armstrong, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Barrasso, David McCormick.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk with respect to Calendar No. 320, H.R. 6500.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Calendar No. 320, H.R. 6500, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purpose.

John Thune, Susan M. Collins, Tim Sheehy, Bill Hagerty, Bernie Moreno, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Marsha Blackburn, James Lankford, Jim Banks, Jon A. Husted, Tom Cotton, Alan Armstrong, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Barrasso, David McCormick.

PROTECT COLLEGE SPORTS ACT OF 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 449, S. 4668.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, S. 4668, a bill to protect the name, image, and likeness rights of, and provide protections for, student athletes and to promote fair competition among intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, S. 4668, a bill to protect the name, image, and likeness rights of, and provide protections for, student athletes and to promote fair competition among intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Ted Cruz, Cynthia M. Lummis, Eric Schmitt, Bernie Moreno, James Lankford, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Pete Ricketts, Shelley Moore Capito, Bill Hagerty, Todd Young, John R. Curtis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 914.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 914, Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Attorney General.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Mike Crapo, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Kevin Cramer, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, Bill Hagerty, Bernie Moreno, John Cornyn, Marsha Blackburn, James Lankford.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Todd Blanche's Department of Justice continues to let criminals off the hook so long as they are loyal to Donald Trump. Yesterday, Trump's DOJ forced a judge to throw out the charges against eight members of the radical extremist Oath Keepers, who were convicted of seditious conspiracy for plotting the January 6 insurrection—horrendous. Doesn't get any more un-American than this. Doesn't twist America's values into a tortured knot.

Trump already gave the insurrectionists clemency. Now he is wiping their records clean, but there is no erasing what the Oath Keepers and the rest of the mob did at Trump's command on January 6.

I saw them in this building. They were not on a tour. They were aimed at destruction to maim and even in a few cases murder. We can't afford to forget what happened that day.

Now, Trump has sent the country a clear message: There are no consequences for sedition, no punishment for attacking police, no repercussions for ransacking the Capitol to steal an election, so long as you do it in Trump's name.

No wonder his numbers are so terrible. No wonder the American people are turning against him. No one in our history has done things as bad as this.

Trump won't just give you clemency for committing a crime on his behalf; he will give you a reward. The whole purpose of Trump's \$2 billion MAGA slush fund is to funnel taxpayer dollars to the Oath Keepers and other Trump cronies. Just the other day, Trump himself defended his slush fund describing it "a reimbursement for the pain that [January 6th insurrectionists] suffered."

Donald, what pain have these insurrectionists suffered? You let them off scot-free.

Republicans don't get to yap about being the party of law and order when they are handing out pardons and cash rewards like candy to convicted cop beaters—convicted cop beaters. Do Senate Republicans want to give a promotion to Blanche, the same guy who came up with the idea of these reparations for rioters?

There is still no legal guardrail stopping Trump and Blanche from giving payouts to January 6 insurrectionists at the taxpayers' expense. That is unacceptable. The only thing these criminals deserve is a cold cell, not America's hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, now Trump is going to Nevada today to tout his disastrous economic record. His going is an insult to every Nevadan reeling from higher costs.

If there is one place where Americans know how to spot a losing hand, it is Las Vegas, Donald Trump. They see your losing hand. Nevadans know better than anyone that Trump's economy has gone bust. Does Trump want to brag about how Nevadans are paying 4 bucks and 80 cents for a gallon of gasoline because of his war? Will Trump tout how more than 36,000 Nevadans have lost their health coverage because Trump cut a trillion dollars from our healthcare system to give billionaires another tax break? Nope.

While grocery prices continue rising, will Trump explain to the more than 78,000 hungry Nevadans who have lost food assistance that his policies are working exactly as intended? Or maybe Trump wants to thump his chest about the \$3,100 extra Nevadans are spending because of Trump's failed policies that have wiped out any extra tax refund they saw this year.

Trump can't bluff his way out of the economic disaster he has unleashed on the American people. Nope. He can have all the bluff and bravado and lies he wants. It is not going to wash because people are experiencing the hurt that Trump has inflicted on them.

IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, Trump seems to think that opening his mouth and opening the Strait of Hormuz are the same thing. Once again, Trump is making big claims that a deal to reopen the strait is imminent. How many times have we heard that?

Whenever Trump says there is a deal, it means one of two things: Either the strait is still staying closed or it opens for a couple of days and then it closes again. None of his deals have come to fruition, and gas prices continue to rise.

At this time, there are rumors he is willing to give up even more control of the strait to Iran to open. If that is true, Donald Trump has put himself in such a difficult position in Iran, blundering his way into a war with no goal, with no preparation, with no future.

He is stuck. He is going to try to get out of it, but mark my words, he will surrender to Iran, in a sense. He will

have to sue for peace, and the Iranians will emerge stronger and America weaker. It is his only way out. Once again, Trump is doing all of these things.

Which one will it be this time, Donald, when it comes to the strait? How many days after you say the strait will open up will it close again? When are you going to get out of the way and let real diplomats negotiate an end to the war that ensures the free flow of shipping through the strait?

Americans can't fuel their cars on wishful thinking and empty promises, and Senate Democrats have now forced 13 votes on the Iran War Powers Resolutions to end Trump's disastrous war. We will keep forcing votes as long as it takes until Senate Republicans help us bring our troops home, end this war, and bring costs down.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on the CR, Senate Democrats have been unequivocal: We want to work across the aisle to keep the government open. The CR gives us the maneuvering room we need to hash out a budget that makes life more affordable for the American people and reins in the Trump administration's chaos and corruption.

Throughout these negotiations, Senate Democrats are fighting for working families. And thanks to Senator PATTY MURRAY's efforts, we have fended off Trump's harmful effort to hold hostage Federal grants that would support communities stretching from one end of the Nation to the other.

Trump has this amazing philosophy: If you are a red State, you deserve the taxpayers' money. If you are a blue State, you don't. And he totally skews our grant-giving to help his friends and to punish his enemies when it has no basis in law, fact, justice, fairness.

The American people are counting on Congress to come together and deliver, and that is what Senate Democrats are fighting to do every day.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Schwartz nomination and the en bloc nominations.

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

DEMOCRAT PARTY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today's Democrat Party has been taken over by extremists. It is happening all across the country. Extremists are winning Democrat primaries all across the country, from east to west.