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. 27, Merrick Brian Garland, of Maryland, to be Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Debbie Stabenow, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Ossoff, Alex Padilla, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sherrod Brown, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls with respect to these motions be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 15, Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Amy Klobuchar, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sherrod Brown, Angus S. King, Jr., Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

PROVIDING FOR AN EXCEPTION TO A LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS A REGULAR COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE ARMED FORCES—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 11.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 11, a bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m., cloture ripen on, one, Executive Calendar No. 12, MARCIA FUDGE, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Executive Calendar No. 27, Merrick Garland, to be Attorney General; that the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on the Fudge nomination; that if cloture is invoked, postcloture time expire on Wednesday, March 10, at 12 noon; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on the Fudge nomination, the Senate vote on cloture on the Garland nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the Garland nomination, postcloture time expire on Wednesday, March 10, at 2:15; further, that cloture on the Regan nomination ripen following disposition of the Garland nomination.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today's legislation takes a very important step in providing financial assistance to multiemployer pension plans, particularly those plans that have already had to suspend benefits in order to save the plans from going insolvent. That has been a very painful step for some plans in New York because it resulted in retiree benefit cuts of as much as 60 percent.

This legislation will allow those plans to restore painful cuts and ensure others on the brink do not have to take similar steps.

I will be watching how the administration implements this new program very closely to ensure plans receiving financial assistance under the new program are not placed in a worse long-term funding position than they are today or are projected to be into the future. This new program is intended to be a long-term solution for these ailing plans, a solution that protects retiree benefits as well as the health of the plans themselves.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, Section 605 of the State and Local section of the American Rescue Plan requires further explanation on its intent. Below is the salient language of Section 605, Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund:

''(b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE PAYMENTS.—

''(1) Payments to eligible revenue sharing counties.—For each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the Secretary shall reserve $750,000,000 of the total amount appropriated under subsection (a) to allocate and pay to each eligible revenue sharing county in amounts that are determined by the Secretary taking into account economic conditions of each eligible revenue sharing county, using measurements of poverty rates, household income, land values, and unemployment rates as well as other economic indicators, over the 20-year period ending with September 30, 2021.

''(l) ELIGIBLE REVENUE SHARING COUNTY.—The term 'eligible revenue sharing county' means—

''(A) a county, parish, or borough—

''(i) that is independent of any other unit of local government; and

''(ii) that, as determined by the Secretary, is the principal provider of government services for the area within its jurisdiction; and

''(iii) for which, as determined by the Secretary, there is a negative revenue impact due to implementation of a Federal program or changes to such program; and

''(B) the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands. . . . ''

Folks may wonder: ''What are the revenue sharing counties?''; ''Why Treasury?''; and ''How is my new program different from existing county support programs?''

Let me explain my thinking in putting this language together. In every state, but especially the West, there are counties with tracts of federal lands that have unique impacts on the local economy. These counties are referred to in Section 605 as ''revenue sharing counties''—counties that have a direct fiscal relationship with public lands and public resources. These counties help pay for roads, schools, and other services that directly benefit and, in many cases, support federal lands. They get payments for the tax-