

Even nominees with the support of both home State Senators are being held up.

The high level of judicial vacancies across the country puts at risk the ability of all Americans to have a fair hearing in court.

I yield the floor.

With that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

RUSSIA AND MOLDOVA JACKSON-VANIK REPEAL AND SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate proceeds to consideration of H.R. 6156, which the clerk will report by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6156) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 10 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, we will soon be voting on whether to establish permanent normal trade relations—otherwise known as PNTR—with Russia and Moldova and to update human rights legislation on Russia.

We have to take many difficult votes in this Chamber, but this is not one of them. In fact, this is a rare opportunity to pass a good bill on which we all can agree.

PNTR is good for U.S. jobs. Russia is a fast-growing market. When Russia joined the WTO in August, it opened its markets to the other 155 members of the WTO who have PNTR with Russia. PNTR will give U.S. farmers, ranchers, businesses, and workers new opportunities in Russia and new jobs at home.

Our competitors in China, Canada, and Europe are now taking advantage of these opportunities because they have PNTR with Russia. They already have it. We are the only WTO member missing out on these opportunities. If we now pass PNTR, we could level the playing field and compete. If we compete, we will win. We will sell more

beef, we will sell more aircraft, we will sell more tractors, and we will sell more medical equipment. Our banks and insurance companies will grow. PNTR will give our knowledge industries greater protections for their intellectual property, and our farmers will have new tools to fight unscientific trade barriers. If we pass PNTR, American exports to Russia are expected to double in 5 years. This bill has strong enforcement provisions to help ensure that American farmers, ranchers, businesses, and exporters get the full benefit of PNTR. This bill has strong human rights provisions. Senator CARDIN's Magnitsky Act punishes human rights violations in Russia and helps to address the corruption problems Russia now faces.

In July, the Finance Committee voted unanimously, 24 to 0, in favor of PNTR legislation. Last month, the House of Representatives passed the PNTR legislation now before us with 365 "yes" votes. Now we need to act to pass this bill that supports U.S. jobs. Let's take advantage of this opportunity to take a good vote on a good bill. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of giving U.S. workers and businesses a chance to compete and vote in favor of the PNTR.

I thank my colleague from Utah, Senator HATCH. He is a great person, and we have worked very closely. The two of us have worked together, and we made a good team to get this legislation passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I want to praise the distinguished chairman of the committee. He has done a wonderful job, and, of course, he has been a pleasure to work with.

This bill marks an important step forward in our relations with Russia and Moldova. Once this bill is signed into law, our workers, job creators, and farmers will be able to take full advantage of Russia and Moldova's accession to the WTO.

The bill includes strong enforcement provisions to ensure that Russia lives up to its international trade obligations. Finally, this bill will help advance human rights and the rule of law in Russia.

Today's vote would not be possible without the combined efforts of many dedicated public servants. First, I would like to thank the staff at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Many of them toiled for years to bring Russia and Moldova into the WTO, often at great personal sacrifice.

I also would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues for all of their hard work in helping to craft this bill. An open and transparent dialogue was critical to our success. And I would particularly like to again express my appreciation to all the Republican members of the Finance Committee who worked with me and my staff in good faith to develop a strong enforcement package which will address many

of the concerns we all have regarding our bilateral trade relations with Russia.

Finally, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Senator BAUCUS, and his wonderful staff because he and his staff have had a great willingness to work with us to make sure our concerns were addressed in the bill. At the conclusion of my remarks I will provide for the RECORD a list of names of staff members from both our offices.

The process we undertook in the Finance Committee is emblematic of how the Finance Committee should work. It is my sincere hope this will be a model for future legislation. Working together, I am confident we can continue to develop policies to grow our economy through international trade and, hopefully, help advance the rule of law around the world. This is a good package that deserves our strong support. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

I believe we have to do more in the international trade world. Earlier, due to the efforts of the distinguished chairman, Senator BAUCUS, and his staff and my staff, we were able to get the Korean, Colombian, and Panamanian treaties through. These were steps in the right direction for all of these years, and to have this happen is going to be a wonderful thing, I think, for our country and for Russia itself, and it certainly is going to help us go down the line in doing what is best for our own trade.

One of the other special things that is in this is it is going to cause Russia to have to live up to some international trade and intellectual property laws. We in this country believe in obeying those laws, and I have to say Russia, India, and China have invaded intellectual property in areas they shouldn't have. Hopefully, this type of agreement, PNTR, will help alleviate that problem.

So I urge my colleagues to join Senator BAUCUS and I in voting for this very important bill. Again, I thank staff on both sides for the wonderful work they have done and the Trade Representative in his office, as well, for the wonderful work they have done.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, we are about to take a momentous step forward in promoting human rights abroad thanks to my good friend from Maryland. Here is a bill that promotes a robust trade relationship while at the same time using this relationship to advance a very just cause: punishing past human rights abusers and inhibiting would-be human rights abusers.

Mr. CARDIN. I couldn't agree more with my friend from Oregon. As some of my colleagues know, I am the original sponsor of Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, the standalone bill that then became the human rights title in this combined PNTR bill. I am enormously proud of the work we have done on the bill, and I

think it has real potential to not only hold people accountable who have committed past human rights abuses, but also potentially to prevent future human rights abuses from occurring. Those who are responsible for gross human rights abuses such as torture or extrajudicial killings, whether as private citizens or within organs of the State, now know that we, our markets, and our financial system will remain closed to them if they do so. These are real material consequences.

Mr. MERKLEY. I am very glad that my friend from Maryland has drawn attention to the forward looking provisions in this bill. It is crucial that while the Secretary of State makes the initial determination as to who should be on this list of gross human rights abusers, this is not the end of the story. On the contrary, there is a continuing oversight process built into the bill, along with requirements for ongoing updates to the list of human rights abusers. In fact, the chairpersons and ranking members of appropriate congressional committees may request a written response from the Secretary of State as to whether a particular individual has met the threshold required for addition to this list. So whether a person's human rights are being violated because he or she is a dissident journalist, or a member of an ethnic minority group, or LGBT, or simply a citizen exposing wrongdoing, the perpetrators will now face real risks and real scrutiny that they did not face before.

Mr. CARDIN. That is exactly right. Those who violate the human rights of such citizens through torture, extrajudicial killings, or other gross violations of international human rights will come to our attention. And I look forward to working with my friend from Oregon to help maintain this vigilance and oversight in the years to come.

Mr. MERKLEY. As do I.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise to speak on the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act that is currently before the Senate. As a cosponsor of Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law and Accountability Act, I am very pleased to see this important human rights legislation move forward, and I want to commend Senators CARDIN, MCCAIN, and others who have worked so hard on this bill for getting us to this point.

The bill that we are considering today would repeal the so-called Jackson-Vanik amendment with respect to Russia, which my colleagues know tied trade relations to the right of free emigration, and replace it with a tough new law to impose sanctions on Russians deemed to have grossly violated human rights.

The bill is named after Sergei Magnitsky, a 37-year-old lawyer who died on November 16, 2009, in Matrosskaya Tishina Prison in Moscow. He was jailed in 2008 after expos-

ing a massive tax fraud by officials of Russia's Interior Ministry. While in jail, he became ill but was denied medical treatment; he was brutally beaten and left to die. This bill is clearly targeted to go after the perpetrators of human rights violations in Russia, including those involved in the death of Sergei Magnitsky, and would require the President name and sanction those individuals, subject to a waiver for national security interests. Those listed by the President could be denied visas to enter the United States and have their assets frozen by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Just yesterday the Washington Post ran a large spread detailing the current state of political affairs in Russia. I want to read an excerpt from that article:

Since his return to the presidency in March, (President Vladimir) Putin has relentlessly demonstrated his determination to quell dissent.

In an apparent attempt to scare off demonstrators, 17 protesters are being prosecuted for their part in a May 6 rally on the eve of Putin's inauguration, accused of attacking police officers. One has already been sentenced to 4½ years in prison.

A newly passed law defines treason so broadly that some Russians are afraid that even associating with foreigners could put them at peril. The penalties for slander and violations of rules governing rallies have been toughened. As of Nov. 21, nongovernmental organizations that receive money from abroad must register as foreign agents . . .

... One by one, opposition leaders have come under intense pressure. Alexei Navalny, the anti-corruption blogger, has been charged with bribery in a recently resurrected three-year-old case. Sergei Udaltsov, a socialist leader, has been charged with plotting mass disorder.

One of his associates, Leonid Razvozhayev, accused Russian authorities of abducting him in Ukraine, where he was seeking asylum. On Nov. 22, Russian investigators said they would not investigate the case because Razvozhayev had not presented convincing evidence that he had been spirited out of Ukraine.

In September, Gennady Gudkov, like Putin a former KGB agent, was stripped of his parliamentary seat after he aligned himself with protesters.

The article goes on to detail further acts of intimidation by the Russian Government aimed at voices of dissent. It makes clear that despite all of the talk of a "reset" in U.S.-Russia relations, this is not a regime that shares our values when it comes to democratic freedoms and other human rights.

Over the last several weeks, there have been news reports that the Kremlin has claimed this bill in some way infringes on Russian sovereignty. That is simply not the case. The bill does not require the Russian Government to take any action against human rights abusers it does not want, but it does say that those abusers may not enter the United States or access our financial system. This bill reaffirms our values, and makes a clear statement that the United States stands for dignity, respect, and the rule of law when it

comes to internationally recognized human rights.

Finally, I do want to say a few words about the trade facilitation aspects of this bill. By repealing Jackson-Vanik with respect to Russia and Moldova, this bill will ensure that U.S. businesses and their employees will be able to realize the benefits of Russia's and Moldova's membership in the World Trade Organization. With respect to Russia, these benefits include additional market access for U.S. service providers and civil aircraft; improved intellectual property enforcement; consistent science-based sanitary and phytosanitary measures; and new dispute settlement tools to enforce WTO rules.

Last year, Maine exported \$14 million worth of goods to Russia, including \$8.1 million worth of aircraft parts and \$5 million worth of cattle. Granting Russia PNTR can help cement this trade relationship by providing U.S. businesses more certainty that their investments will be protected. A Peterson Institute for International Economics study estimates that the volume of U.S. exports of merchandise and services to Russia could double from \$11 billion in 2011 to \$22 billion over about 5 years as a result of granting Russian permanent normal trade relations, or PNTR.

Additionally, the bill includes strong reporting requirements on Russia's compliance with its WTO commitments and directs the U.S. Trade Representative to develop a plan for action on areas where Russia does not live up to its WTO requirements.

I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. JOHANNES. Madam President, I come to the floor today in support of approving permanent normal trade relations with Russia.

Over the past several years, I have often come to the floor in favor of free-trade agreements and other efforts to expand market access for U.S. exports. This legislation is yet another one of those opportunities. This vote to repeal a 1970s trade law and recognize Russia as a member of the WTO will result in increased export opportunities for U.S. manufacturers, farmers, and ranchers. Increased exports lead to increased job creation.

Russia is the world's ninth largest economy, with a population of 142 million and a growing middle class. Russia is already a significant trading partner importing over \$10 billion annually from the United States. In just a 5-year period, Nebraska's exports to Russia increased fourfold. In fact, in 2011 alone, total exports of goods from Nebraska were valued at \$154 million.

I believe we have the opportunity to continue this impressive trend by recognizing Russia as a WTO member. A vote in favor of this legislation will level the playing field for U.S. job creators looking to take advantage of these growing export opportunities. This is especially true for Nebraska's

equipment and machinery manufacturers. My State has a reputation for producing some of the most sophisticated irrigation equipment in the world.

Acknowledging Russia's membership in the WTO will reduce tariffs on this technology from 10 percent to 5 percent—allowing U.S.-based companies to compete more effectively with others around the globe. Additionally, other agriculture equipment and machinery manufacturers in Nebraska and elsewhere will see tariffs reduced or eliminated. Currently, these tariff rates are up to 25 percent. They will eventually drop to an average well below 10 percent when Russia meets all of its WTO commitments. This is a big deal beyond any single state or sector.

Total U.S. agricultural exports to Russia are forecast at more than \$1.4 billion for 2012, and this further opens the doors of opportunity. Here is another example: As part of the WTO accession process, Russia is required to lower its tariffs on U.S. beef products to 15 percent. Additionally, Russia must allow a greater volume of frozen beef imports. The quota will nearly triple: from approximately 22,000 tons in 2010 to 60,000 tons. Meat production is a big part of our agricultural economy—in my home State and in our country—so this is noteworthy.

Now, our agricultural producers will be the first to tell you that they don't think Russia always plays fair in the world of exports. They say Russia sometimes offers unjustifiable reasons to block our products. The fact is, Russia has a less-than-stellar record on establishing predictable, science-based import standards. So our producers have not always had reasonable access to its markets.

As Secretary of Agriculture, I relentlessly negotiated with Russia and other trading partners to grant the same access to their markets for our agricultural products as we granted to their products. This seems fair, right? They should offer us the same access we offer them? But based on Russia's track record on U.S. meat exports, especially pork and poultry, I continue to have concerns. That is part of the reason I have decided we should recognize their membership in the WTO.

The WTO has been an important tool for the United States to level the playing field for our products in the international trading system. Russia will be obligated to apply international food safety standards. This should mean more certainty and predictable market access for U.S. agricultural products. And these obligations will be enforceable through the use of WTO dispute settlement mechanisms.

Integrating Russia into a rules-based trading system and providing the means to enforce those rules will further strengthen the ability of U.S. businesses to export products to Russia. But this is an area where we will need to show great vigilance. As Russia implements its trade commitments, the administration must ensure that

Russia does not revert to its old ways on trade. Further delay in repealing Jackson-Vanik would only hurt us.

On August 22, Russia formally joined the WTO after a lengthy process. Over 150 other nations have already taken action and are reaping the export benefits. The United States has been left in the dust. Until we act, we cannot enjoy the lowered tariffs, increased market access, dispute settlement process, and other benefits of Russia's membership in the WTO. Thus, we should vote to repeal Jackson-Vanik and accept Russia as a permanent trading partner.

The move ensures that American businesses are not disadvantaged and losing market share to their competitors. Russia already has access to the U.S. market, so additional delay on PNTR only hurts our workers and companies. Delaying action will only result in the delay of job creation and more lost opportunities for American manufacturers, farmers, and ranchers.

Our efficient export system, including handling, processing and distribution of our goods and agricultural products, creates millions of U.S. jobs. At a time when we face some very serious challenges in our country related to debt, deficit, and unemployment, it makes sense to unlock this door of opportunity. Thus, I support removing application of Jackson-Vanik and intend to vote for PNTR with Russia. This status would help to level the playing field for U.S. exporters.

I encourage my colleagues to consider the economic impacts of this bill on our Nation's manufactures, farmers, ranchers, and other job creators, and I look forward to voting to support normalizing trade with Russia.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, today I wish to thank my colleagues for their support of legislation granting permanent normal trade relations to Russia and Moldova. This legislation allows U.S. businesses to take full advantage of trade opportunities in Russia and Moldova following their accession to the World Trade Organization. Legislation normalizing our trade relations with both these countries has taken years to complete. It is important to note that, while the WTO accession process opened the door for U.S. businesses to take greater advantage of trade with Russia, we have created a number of new enforcement mechanisms which, in this, will, I very much hope, hold Russia accountable for meeting their international obligations.

This process and its success would not have been possible without the leadership our chairman, Senator BAUCUS. I deeply appreciate his willingness to work with me to address the many concerns I and our colleagues on the Finance Committee had with Russia's accession package. It is truly a pleasure to be working with someone so fully committed to opening markets and securing new opportunities for U.S. workers and job creators in the international marketplace. I hope our work

together on this bill will be just the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership.

I would like to acknowledge a few of the many people who helped make this a successful process. First, I would like to recognize the efforts of the U.S. Trade Representative's Office who assisted in the very long process of assembling the Russia WTO accession. Special recognition must go to Elizabeth Hafner, Director for Russia and Eurasia; Catherine Field, Deputy General Counsel for Negotiations, Legislation and Administrative Law; Cecilia Klein, Senior Director for WTO Accessions; Stephanie Murphy, Director for Agricultural Affairs; Scott Pietan, Director for Industry Trade Policy; and Thomas Fine, Director for Services Trade Negotiations. I would also like to recognize former members of the USTR Office who dedicated many years to this process, including Dorothy Dwoskin, Matt Rohde, and Chris Wilson, who all served as former Assistant United States Trade Representative for the World Trade Organization and Multilateral Affairs, as well as the current AUSTR, Mark Linscott.

Senator BAUCUS staff was instrumental in helping us advance this process and craft today's bill. I would like to thank them for all of their efforts. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Russ Sullivan, the majority staff director of the Finance Committee; chief international trade counsel Amber Cottle; international trade counsels Bruce Hirsh and Lisa Pearlman; trade advisors, Chelsea Thomas and Hun Quach; international trade analyst, Rory Murphy; and their detailee from Customs and Border Protection, Heather Sykes.

Finally, I would like to recognize my dedicated and hardworking staff. In particular, I would like to thank the staff director of my Finance Committee staff, Chris Campbell; my chief international trade counsel, Everett Eissenstat; international trade counsels Paul DeLaney and Greg Kalbaugh; our detailee from Customs and Border Protection, Richard Chovanec; our detailee from the Department of Commerce, Steven Garrett; and our international trade staff assistant, Rebecca Nasca. They worked tirelessly to help prepare this bill for our consideration, and I am grateful for their hard work and dedication.

We can all be proud of this bill. It provides significant new tools to battle corruption within Russia while at the same time enabling U.S. workers and job creators to take full advantage of Russia's membership in the World Trade Organization. I look forward to President Obama signing it into law as soon as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Utah. He is a good man. I also thank staff who helped put this bill together. Amber Cottle, on my side, and Everett

Eissenstat, who works for Senator HATCH, worked very hard. They lead very good, trained teams, I might add. They are very talented, able folks.

I see this too as a vote to help propel us to the next level of trade expansion. One is the TPP, Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is being worked on by the United States and other Asian countries. I think it is a dramatic opportunity for growth.

Second, working with Europe, the potential free-trade agreement with Europe, there has been a lot of interest in Europe joining the United States and reducing barriers to trade. It is a great opportunity that we should take advantage of. Obviously, that raises another question, which is trade promotion authority. Next year Congress and I will work to get trade promotion authority passed so we can include these trade agreements and help American companies and, equally importantly, help American consumers because American consumers and American workers are, frankly, helped dramatically by properly negotiated trade agreements when it is in the best interests of the United States.

I thank the Presiding Officer for all she does too.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. HATCH. I yield back the remainder of our time.

Mr. BAUCUS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. HATCH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on passage of H.R. 6156.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) would vote "aye."

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 223 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Akaka	Ayotte	Baucus
Alexander	Barrasso	Begich

Bennet	Grassley	Moran
Bingaman	Hagan	Murkowski
Blumenthal	Harkin	Murray
Blunt	Hatch	Nelson (NE)
Boozman	Heller	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Hoeven	Paul
Brown (MA)	Hutchison	Portman
Brown (OH)	Inhofe	Pryor
Burr	Isakson	Reid
Cantwell	Johanns	Risch
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Roberts
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Casey	Kerry	Schumer
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Sessions
Coats	Kohl	Shaheen
Coburn	Kyl	Shelby
Cochran	Landrieu	Snowe
Collins	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Lieberman	Toomey
Crapo	Lugar	Udall (CO)
DeMint	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	McConnell	Webb
Franken	Menendez	Wicker
Gillibrand	Merkley	Wyden
Graham	Mikulski	

NAYS—4

Levin	Sanders
Reed	Whitehouse

NOT VOTING—4

Conrad	Kirk
Inouye	Rockefeller

The bill (H.R. 6156) was passed.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, this morning Senator MCCONNELL came to the floor. He made a serious offer dealing with the debt ceiling—one of the most important issues facing this country. As I said, it is a serious offer. I have not personally read it. My staff looked at it, and it is important enough that I would like to have a vote on it this afternoon. I need to have a caucus and explain to my troops what this is all about. If we can work something out with Senator MCCONNELL, I would like to have a vote sometime this afternoon. I do need to have a caucus. We have another vote right now, and if my Republican colleagues think there is not a chance of having a vote this afternoon—I can only do it by unanimous consent. If someone is going to object to it, they should do it now and we will arrange another time to address this issue.

So the issue is that Senator MCCONNELL has made a proposal on how we handle the debt ceiling, and we have to get permission from my Republican colleagues as to whether we can have a vote on it this afternoon at a time that would be as convenient as possible. I don't think we need a lot of time to debate it. We have done that lots of times.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, how about 1 p.m.?

Mr. REID. Madam President, I know there are airplanes that people want to leave in, but this is very important. This vote will end at about 1 p.m. I scheduled the caucus for 1:30 p.m. There is no reason we couldn't start the caucus at 1:05 p.m. We can move it up.

I need some direction from my Republican colleagues. So if I hear no one

yelling no, then we will go ahead and schedule this as soon as we can this afternoon, to vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I know there are those on my side who would also like to have a conference to talk about this. Could we have an indication as to the timeframe of the vote?

Mr. REID. Madam President, to my friend from Texas, the conference we will have won't take very long—half an hour, maybe 45 minutes. I am sure we could finish that by 1:45 p.m. or something like that, and we could have a vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

VOTE ON NOMINATION OF MARK E. WALKER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark E. Walker, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida?

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 224 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Akaka	Feinstein	McCaskill
Alexander	Franken	McConnell
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Menendez
Barrasso	Graham	Merkley
Baucus	Grassley	Mikulski
Begich	Hagan	Moran
Bennet	Harkin	Murkowski
Bingaman	Hatch	Murray
Blumenthal	Heller	Nelson (NE)
Blunt	Hoeven	Nelson (FL)
Boozman	Hutchison	Paul
Boxer	Inhofe	Portman
Brown (MA)	Isakson	Pryor
Brown (OH)	Johanns	Reed
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Risch
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Roberts
Carper	Kerry	Rubio
Casey	Klobuchar	Sanders
Chambliss	Kohl	Schumer
Coats	Kyl	Sessions
Coburn	Landrieu	Shaheen
Cochran	Lautenberg	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Snowe
Coons	Lee	Stabenow
Corker	Levin	Tester
Cornyn	Lieberman	Thune
Crapo	Lugar	Toomey
Durbin	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Enzi	McCain	