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

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

YEAS—94

Alexander  Frankin  Moran
Ayotte  Franklin  Murkowski
Balanced  Giellibrand  Murphy
Barrasoo  Grassley  Murphey
Begich  Hagan  Murray
Benett  Harkin  Paul
Blumenthal  Hatch  Pauli
Blinn  Hirono  Paul
Booker  Hirono  Roberts
Boozman  Hoeven  Roberts
Brown  Inhofe  Roberts
Burr  Infante  Rubio
Cardwell  Isakson  Shanker
Cardin  Johnson (SD)  Shanker
Carpenter  Johnson (WI)  Sessions
Casey  Kaine  Shaheen
Chambliss  King  Shelby
Coats  Klobuchar  Shelby
Collins  Landrieu  Stefanow
Coons  Leahy  Tester
Corker  Lee  Thune
Cochran  Levin  Udall (CO)
Cornyn  Manchin  Udall (NM)
Crando  Markley  Vitter
Crzz  McCaskill  Walke
Donnelly  McCain  Walsh
Durbin  McConnell  Warren
Enzi  Menendez  Whitehouse
Feinstein  Merkley  Wicker
Fischer  Mikulski  Wyden
Flake  Moran  Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Coon  Pryor  Schatz
Cochran  Rogers  Schatz
Heimrich  Rogers  Schatz

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CRAWFORD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on the Crawford nomination.

The Senate from Vermont. Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, is this the Crawford nomination? The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. Mr. LEAHY. Let me say he is strongly supported by both Senators from Vermont, and I might say also by the people of Vermont. I yield back the remaining time. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont? Mr. INHOFE. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senate from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Schatz) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES).

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

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

YEAS—95

Alexander  Franken  Moran
Ayotte  Gillibrand  Murkowski
Balanced  Grassley  Murphy
Barrasoo  Hagan  Murray
Begich  Harkin  Paul
Blumenthal  Hatch  Pauli
Blinn  Hirono  Paul
Booker  Hirono  Roberts
Boozman  Hoeven  Roberts
Brown  Inhofe  Roberts
Burr  Infante  Rubio
Cardwell  Isakson  Shanker
Cardin  Johnson (SD)  Shanker
Carpenter  Johnson (WI)  Sessions
Casey  Kaine  Shaheen
Chambliss  King  Shelby
Coats  Klobuchar  Shelby
Collins  Landrieu  Stefanow
Coons  Leahy  Tester
Corker  Lee  Thune
Cochran  Levin  Udall (CO)
Cornyn  Manchin  Udall (NM)
Crando  Markley  Vitter
Crzz  McCain  Walke
Donnelly  McCaskill  Walsh
Durbin  McConnell  Warren
Enzi  Menendez  Whitehouse
Feinstein  Merkley  Wicker
Fischer  Mikulski  Wyden
Flake  Moran  Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Cochran  Pryor  Schatz
Cochran  Rogers  Schatz
Heimrich  Rogers  Schatz

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, with respect to the confirmed nominations, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There are now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a cloture vote on the Rodriguez nomination.

Who yields time? Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, all time is yielded back. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state. The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.


The PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be
Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. PRYOR, and the Senator from Hawaii, Mr. SCHATZ, are necessarily absent.

The Senator from Mississippi, Mr. COCHRAN, and the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. J OHANNS, are necessarily absent.

The Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The Senator from Nebraska (Mr. J OHANNS).

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. J OHANNS).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 210 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin            Harkin            Nelson
Beigun             Heitkamp           Reed
Benning           Hirono             Rockefeller
Booker                Johnson (SD)   Sanders
Boozman          King                 Shaheen
Boustany           King                 Stabenow
Brown              King                 Tester
Cassidy           Lankford           Udall (CO)
Casey             Lankford           Udall (NM)
Coons             McCain              Warner
Collins           McCain              Warren
Durbin            Menendez           Whitehouse
Franken           Mikulski            Wyden
Gillibrand         Murphy             Wyden
Hagin             Murray

NAYS—44

Alexander          Fischer            Moran
Ayotte            Flake               Murkowski
Barrasso         Graham             Paul
Blunt             Grassley           Portman
Boozman           Hatch               Risch
Burr              Heller             Roberts
Chambliss         Hoeven             Rubio
Coats             Inhofe              Scott
Coburn             Isakson            Sessions
Collins                Johnson (WI)   Sessions
Corker             Kirk                 Thune
Coryn              Lee                 Touney
Crapo             Manchin             Vitter
Cruz                McCain             Wicker
Enzi                Martinez            Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Cochran          Pryer
Johanns          Schatz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 52, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that following remarks, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m.; that when the Senate reconvenes, the time until 4:30 p.m. be equally divided and controlled in the usual form; and that at 4:30 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Rodriguez nomination.

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

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:39 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

NOMINATION OF LEON RODRIGUEZ TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Nomination of Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 4:30 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Republican whip.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, there are two things I wish to address here briefly on the floor of the Senate. The first, strangely enough, has to do with an editorial that appeared in the New York Times this weekend.

I remember well the times when people who was influential to me when I was coming up through the political system in Bexar County, TX, and in Austin, and now working here in Washington and back home in Texas. One of my mentors said: Don’t ever get into a fight with somebody who buys ink by the barrel.

That seemed like pretty sage advice, but maybe it is a little dated these days because so much of what we see in the news is not in written newspaper itself.

The point is, the editorial in the New York Times this weekend I am referring to was talking about criminal justice reform, a topic that in recent months has produced some genuine bipartisan legislation. I am proud to be a cosponsor of one of those reform bills, along with my colleague, the junior Senator from Rhode Island, SHELDON WHITEHOUSE.

Our bill would allow low-risk Federal prisoners to earn credit toward completing a portion of their sentence outside of prison walls—for example, through home confinement, through halfway houses or community supervision. Strange enough, the Times editorial praises our bill as an example “of significant progress toward a legislative solution.”

Unfortunately, it then proceeds to blame Senate Republicans, including me, for stalling progress on the bill and preventing a vote on the sentencing bill introduced by the distinguished majority whip, DICK DURBIN of Illinois.

The strange thing about it is, as every Senator and everybody within the sound of my voice know, it is Majority Leader REID who determines what legislation comes up on the Senate floor, and this editorial didn’t mention him at all. An amazing oversight. The last time I checked, the majority leader was the only person in the Chamber with the power to schedule a vote on any legislation he wants, and he can do so whenever he wants.

So for the record to correct the error in the New York Times editorial, I strongly support criminal justice reform, including sentencing reform. My concerns about the sentencing reform bill cosponsored by Senator DURBIN and Senator LENI are that I believe the criteria it uses are excessively broad in deciding whose prison terms to shorten. But I think those are the sorts of things that could be worked out through an open amendment process on the Senate floor. And—I am sure we all agree on this—we don’t want to prematurely release dangerous, higher level drug traffickers. That is my concern, that the bill is overly broad and would include them. Those kinds of concerns should not be taken lightly—and I am sure they are not—and I look forward to working with my colleagues to address them.

To reiterate, my opinions about the sentencing bill have nothing to do with the majority leader’s prerogative to schedule a vote. He could schedule that vote anytime he wants. I would like to think the New York Times editorial board is knowledgeable enough to know that, but apparently they need a reminder.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

In the last week I have come to the floor a number of times to talk about the humanitarian crisis in South Texas. This of course is caused in large part by 52,000 unaccompanied minors, mostly from Central America, who have shown up on America’s doorstep, on our border, saying they want to live in the United States. It is estimated those numbers could rise to as many as 60,000 to 90,000 this year alone and maybe double next year unless something is done.

I have to say I am somewhat encouraged because the Obama administration is finally acknowledging—some what belatedly, but finally they are acknowledging—their policies may have contributed to this crisis in the first place.

This past weekend Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson published an open letter to the parents of children crossing our Southwest border. This letter ran as an op-ed in Spanish language media outlets, and it warned parents of the extraordinary dangers facing Central American migrants who travel through Mexico, including the danger of kidnapping, sexual assault, torture, and murder.

Secretary of Homeland Security Johnson also made clear that the children who have been pouring into South Texas will not be eligible for the Obama administration’s so-called deferred action programs. This is what he said: