

upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Henderson, Griffin, Roper, Bayer, Gibson, Gordon-Hagerty, Fahey, and Ayres nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 663.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Melissa F. Burnison, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Tennessee.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the Senator from Delaware is somewhere in the neighborhood, and he has a train to catch in a few minutes. So I ask unanimous consent that after I make a few remarks about today's events and the voting today, the Senator from Delaware be recognized, and that fol-

lowing his speaking, I be recognized again.

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

IMMIGRATION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today the Senate voted on immigration.

Immigration is a passionate issue. It affects the lives of people. It affects the American creed, which involves the rule of law, which involves the fact that we are a nation of immigrants. It goes to the heart of our country, and we have very strong opinions about it. All of us know that.

Of course, that is the reason we have a U.S. Senate. This is not an issue that the Shreveport City Council or the Nashville Metro Council can solve. We can't solve the problem of our Nation's borders. We can't solve the problem in our communities about what to do about people who were brought here as children illegally through no fault of their own. That is our job. That is the job of the President of the United States. That is the job of the Senate, and it is the job of the Congress.

We tried before. We tried in 2007, and we failed. We tried in 2013, and this body passed a bill with 68 or 69 votes. I voted for it. If we had passed that bill, as for all the issues we debated today, we wouldn't have them anymore because we dealt then with border security in 2013. We would have added 20,000 border agents, 700 miles of fencing, biometric detection at our ports of exit and entry, and E-Verify for all of the employers in the country. We would have dealt with the issue of legal status for people illegally here, people overstaying their visas, temporary workers. We would have done all of that in 2013, but we did not do it.

So we are left with this problem of a large number of people living in this country—some for a long period of time—who were brought here as children through no fault of their own, which is one problem. We have another problem on the border, which is that the border isn't secure. People coming across the border is one problem, but in my view, the drugs coming across the border are the biggest problem. We have had a lot of hearings in the HELP Committee about opioid addiction. A lot of the heroin and a lot of the illegal drugs that are devastating our communities are coming across our southern border. It is just a fact, and we need to deal with it.

So we are dealing with and we voted today on what to do about the children brought here illegally by their parents through no fault of their own and what to do about border security. The President of the United States did his job on this one.

He did what a President is supposed to do.

I read a book by George Reedy, who was Lyndon Johnson's Press Secretary. He said that a President's job—the

Senator from Delaware is a former Governor, so he knows about this. He and I had an executive job when we were Governors. I did my job this way as Governor. A President's job is to see an urgent need, to develop a strategy to meet the need, and to persuade at least half the people you are right. That is what George Reedy said the President's job was, and I think President Trump in this case has done his job. He saw an urgent need. He saw a need of the Dreamers, the DACA people who are here. He saw an urgent need to deal with the border. He saw an urgent need to deal with some other holes in our system of legal immigration. He saw a need to deal with the fact that we have kind of slipped into a situation where the million people a year who come here legally, unlike most countries in the world, are brought here by cousins just because they are cousins. They are not brought here because they are part of the immediate family or because they add something special to our country, either skilled or unskilled, and he sought to change that.

The President recognized the fact that once we give someone legal status in this country, once we say to them: We have decided we want you to be here permanently or nearly permanently. We want you at least one day to dream of becoming a citizen of the United States—I agree with the President on that. I don't want millions of people living in this country permanently who are pledging their allegiance to Afghanistan and Russia and China and Japan and every other country in the world; I want them to stand up in the Federal court or wherever they have the naturalization ceremony—or to be able to dream of standing there—and take the same oath of allegiance to this country that George Washington's soldiers took at Valley Forge, which is the same allegiance today that it was then, where you renounce your allegiance to any other country and you pledge your allegiance to the United States. I want anyone who we have decided deserves legal status on a permanent basis to have that in the back of their mind, not the pledge of allegiance to Korea or Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Chile or any other country in the world.

I think the President did his job. He made a reasonable proposal. I think he did something that most Democrats and many Americans—maybe many Republicans—did not expect him to do. He said: Let's take care permanently of these 1.8 million children who were brought here through no fault of their own. As long as they don't get in trouble and follow the law, are law-abiding, let's give them the dream of citizenship after 10 or 12 years. Let's deal with merit-based immigration. Let's make some changes in our legal system. Let's plug some of the holes in the border so these drugs don't come in.

The President made a very strong proposal. Now we are doing what we are supposed to do. We are supposed to