

margin that this was a simple exercise. It was a very complicated exercise, and it was in doubt until about an hour and a half ago in terms of whether we would be able to do this tonight. Yet we wouldn't have been able to have done it without Senator HATCH, so I thank him.

I think it is fitting, as he retires this year after spending four decades in the Senate, that we name the most important piece of legislation to help songwriters in a generation after the Senate's songwriter, that being the Orrin G. Hatch Music Modernization Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to thank my dear colleague from Nashville—really, from Tennessee—for his very kind remarks. He covered this really well.

I have had this experience of writing pretty nice songs, mainly because of my cowriters. I have to say that I was shocked that even though hundreds of thousands—even millions—of records have been sold on some of these songs, the songwriters are paid little and in many cases, not paid at all. This will enhance songwriting in America and give songwriters a chance to be able to hopefully make a living, especially the good ones, even some who are not necessarily in Nashville or Hollywood or New York or in any number of other places.

I want to say that we all are very lucky to have Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, who is one of our chief advocates in this area. He understands these problems. He has lived with these problems. He has anguished over them, and he has played a tremendous role in finally getting us to this passed bill.

This is a very important bill. People don't realize it, but they will once this bill is really utilized the way it is allowed.

I can't say that I am a great songwriter, although I do have one platinum and one gold record and some others that will probably go gold and platinum. But I can say this: It has been one of the most enjoyable, productive, and interesting experiences to write songs—for me and for those who write with me.

All I can say is that I feel really, really indebted to everyone in the Senate and the House for doing this to help spur on the music industry in this country and to get people treated properly from a remunerative standpoint.

I am grateful for LAMAR ALEXANDER and for the leadership that he has pro-

vided. We couldn't have done this without him.

Frankly, it is always a pleasure to work with him. He has such a great sense of humor. He is a tremendous musician himself. He plays the piano as well as anybody I know and, frankly, has done so for a lot of us around here. He has uplifted us with his talents. He is a good guy. I think in Tennessee, and especially in Nashville, they are very lucky to have him as a U.S. Senator.

I am grateful to the Senate for allowing us to get this done. I am grateful for my friends on the Democratic side for opening the door here, and I am grateful for my friends on the Republican side, all of whom realize how important this bill is and how much good it is going to do for America and for the music industry—to enlighten us all, to lift us all during times of difficulty and grief and so forth, and to provide the incentives to do even better in the future than we have done in the past. This is an important bill. I am pleased that I have had a role in helping to pass it.

I am very grateful to Senator ALEXANDER. He is one of my favorite people here. I used to chair the Labor and Human Resources Committee that he now chairs. I understand how difficult that committee has been. This is great and thoughtful legislation, and he has done a tremendous job on that committee. He is one of the great Senators, and I am not just saying that because he has helped me on this particular bill. I just have to say that I am very grateful to him, grateful for his leadership in the Senate, and grateful for my friendship with him and his friendship with me. He is a really wonderful man, and he makes a real difference in this body.

I want to thank everybody in the Senate for allowing this to happen. I am just very, very appreciative and would feel badly if I did not at least make that very clear here today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Utah for his remarks. I think we both would feel remiss if we didn't properly acknowledge all of the Senators and especially all of the staff members who have put in such long hours and used such professionalism to help with this. We will come back to the floor next week and do that properly.

Lindsay Garcia is here with me, as well as Paul McKernan and David Cleary. I see Senator HATCH's staff is

on the floor, some from the Finance Committee. I want to make sure that we do a complete job of acknowledging their highly professional work in this complex and important piece of legislation. As I said, it is the most important piece of legislation in a generation to help make sure that American songwriters are paid fairly for their work.

Thank you.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018, AND MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on Thursday, September 20, at 3 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, September 20, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, September 24, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, until 5:30 p.m., and that then, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of the Wolcott nomination under the previous order; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen following disposition of the Wolcott nomination.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:42 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 3 p.m.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 18, 2018:

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOHN E. WHITLEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

##### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CHARLES P. VERDON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR DEFENSE PROGRAMS, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.