

detainees escape and regroup—many of them planning to hurt us here in our homeland—again, President Trump articulates no plan to fix what he has broken.

His top officials—Secretary of State Pompeo and Secretary Esper—have canceled two briefings with the Senate, during which they were supposed to update the Senate on the administration's plan. I think they keep canceling and ducking because they don't have a plan and wouldn't know what to say. That is very, very disturbing.

My Republican colleagues, please stand up and speak out about the obvious dangers to our national security that President Trump has invited.

Some, to their credit, have done so, but others have gone so far as to excuse the President's decision even if it results in the ethnic cleansing of the Kurds, our brave and former partners in the fight against ISIS. That is not right. Democrats and Republicans must continue to press the President to correct course in northern Syria and quickly develop a plan of action to contain ISIS and secure its enduring defeat.

#### NOMINATION OF JUSTIN REED WALKER

Madam President, on one last issue—judges—today the Senate will consider the nomination of Justin Walker of Kentucky to serve a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench. Mr. Walker is less than 10 years out of law school, has never tried a case, has never served as cocounsel, and it is not clear how much of his 10 years has been spent practicing law. Unsurprisingly, Mr. Walker earned a rare “not qualified” rating by the American Bar Association. Very few are called “not qualified,” but he is one of them.

It seems the only reason Mr. Walker has been nominated for an austere judgeship is his membership in the Federalist Society and his far-right-wing views on healthcare, civil rights, and Executive power.

Unfortunately, Mr. Walker is part of a well-established pattern of Republicans stacking the Federal bench with manifestly unqualified judges. Another brazen example is Steven Menashi, who was slated to be considered in committee today before, thank God, it was delayed. Mr. Menashi's record of extreme views is well documented. He pushed Betsy DeVos's anti-student agenda at the Department of Education and worked closely with Stephen Miller at the White House on policies that harm immigrants. His past writings show scorn for LGBTQ Americans and women. Menashi's conduct before the Judiciary Committee was insulting, his contempt for the Senate reprehensible, and his refusal to be forthcoming about his record should be outright disqualifying. Senators GRAHAM and KENNEDY, in the committee, noted that his refusal to answer questions was troubling.

Folks like Mr. Walker and Mr. Menashi have not earned the privilege of a lifetime appointment to the bench.

I am glad that one of my Republican colleagues has said they will oppose Mr. Menashi's nomination, and other Republicans should follow suit on his nomination and on Mr. Walker's vote today.

I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 12 noon.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:37 a.m., recessed until 12 noon and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. FISCHER).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 Justin Reed Walker, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Mitch McConnell, Martha McSally, Rick Scott, John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Rand Paul, John Kennedy, John Cornyn, Kevin Cramer, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Patrick J. Toomey, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, John Boozman, Richard C. Shelby.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Justin Reed Walker, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 332 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Alexander	Ernst	Portman
Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Gardner	Roberts
Blunt	Graham	Romney
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Murkowski	Wicker
Daines	Paul	Young
Enzi	Perdue	

#### NAYS—39

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Stabenow
Duckworth	Menendez	Tester
Durbin	Merkley	Udall
Feinstein	Murphy	Van Hollen
Gillibrand	Murray	Warner
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—11

Booker	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Carper	Isakson	Warren
Coons	Kaine	Whitehouse
Harris	Moran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Justin Reed Walker, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

##### UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, we are rapidly approaching the 1-year mark since President Trump and the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of Mexico signed a new trade agreement to strengthen our economies.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, will replace NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, and continue to guide trade with our northern and southern neighbors in the future.

It is estimated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that the number of jobs in the United States that have been created directly as a result of trade with Mexico ranges around the 5 million figure, with another 8 million from binational with Canada, so this is no small matter.

Since NAFTA was enacted in 1994, a lot has changed. The way we communicate and the way we shop and even go about our daily lives rely heavily on technology that didn't exist 25 years ago.

Make no mistake—NAFTA has been a huge benefit to our country, and