

RATCLIFFE directly contradicts what the Intelligence community had written in plain English. It said: "We did not make an assessment of the impact that Russian activities had on the outcome of the 2016 election." So I asked JOHN RATCLIFFE where he got his information. He referred back to the Intelligence community's assessment and the committee's report, neither of which supported JOHN RATCLIFFE's statements.

You have to ask yourself, Why would JOHN RATCLIFFE say something that is obviously not true? That is because Donald Trump wants us to believe that he didn't benefit from Russian interference, and that, first and foremost, is what matters to JOHN RATCLIFFE. If JOHN RATCLIFFE is willing to misrepresent intelligence assessments that are already public that anybody can read for themselves, my take is there is no telling how he would misrepresent intelligence that is still classified.

There is every reason to believe his public statements would be designed for one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to make sure that Donald Trump is pleased. Neither the Congress nor the American people have any reason to trust that JOHN RATCLIFFE's testimony or his other public statements are accurate.

My view is this kind of approach taken by the Director of National Intelligence is a real threat to democracy. When the Director of National Intelligence demonstrates that he is willing to bury the actual intelligence and say whatever makes Donald Trump happy at any particular moment, the American people are going to lose confidence and lose confidence quickly.

It is not just about foreign interference in our democracy. That is plenty serious as it is. It is about other threats from countries like Iran, North Korea, and China. It is about weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. It is about whether the government is secretly spying on Americans without a warrant or committing torture. Ultimately, it is about the issue of war and peace and whether Americans will be asked to die for our country.

The American people look to intelligence leaders for the facts—the facts, the unvarnished truth on these and other issues, which is why it is so important this position must have a foundation of credibility.

Time and again, JOHN RATCLIFFE has demonstrated that he does not clear that lowest bar; that bar that means you have to have credibility in this position, and I urge my colleagues, when we vote in a few minutes, to reject JOHN RATCLIFFE's nomination to be Director of National Intelligence.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON RATCLIFFE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Ratcliffe nomination?

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 101 Ex.)

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Murkowski	Sanders
Burr	Murray	
Markey	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John Leonard Badalamenti, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, with respect to the Ratcliffe nomination, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Maryland.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I know that we are all looking forward to trying to finish our legislative work this week. The majority leader has announced that next week the Senate will be in recess for the traditional Memorial Day recess.

Let me just urge our colleagues that before we leave for the recess, we need to act on the challenges that COVID-19 is imposing on our State and local governments. To me, it would be irresponsible for us to leave and go into recess recognizing that our State and local governments are so much impacted by COVID-19.

They are making decisions now. They have to put their budgets together. They have to adjust this year's budget and plan for next year's budget. What is in the balance? Well, it is our municipalities, it is law enforcement, it is police, it is fire, it is emergency rescue. For our counties, it is our schools and funding of our schools. It also deals with public health for our State. It is public health and so many other different issues that are dependent upon the State having the resources in order to respond to the needs of their citizens—our constituents—as well as to deal with the challenges of COVID-19.

I will give you one example on that. This week, by teleconference with representatives of our higher education, University of Maryland—they depend very much on the revenues they get from the State and the revenues they get from their students. Both are very much in jeopardy today. The least we can do is to make sure that the States have the resources to continue these critical missions. They just don't have it.

Let me give you some of the numbers so that my colleagues are aware of it. For the State of Maryland, in the revenue projections for the current fiscal year that ends June 30, the revenues will be off by as much as \$925 million to \$1.25 billion. Those are revenue losses. On top of that, their fiscal year 2022 revenue projection is another loss of \$2.1 to \$2.4 billion. That is for the State of Maryland. Those are not our subdivisions.

Baltimore City is projecting a reduction in revenues by \$141 million this year. That is going to require layoffs. They have already talked about layoffs and not hiring additional police officers. Those police officers are needed in order to keep Baltimore safe. We know the challenges we have in our municipal centers, and Baltimore City is