

public, to have the discussion about renaming our military bases and about the future of these war memorials in public, to conduct open hearings where military families and veterans and the local community can be heard and where we can seek and find common ground together. That is all I am asking for. And all I am asking for is a vote on this.

Yet, here today, on the floor of the U.S. Senate, I have been told that we cannot even have a vote. We can't even call the roll on this. No, we just have to swallow it and move on as the woke cancel culture moves on, steamrolling our history and our traditions, and, yes, our best traditions as Americans.

You know, our military bases are more than walls and fences. They are more than lines on a piece of paper in a 1,000-page bill. Our bases are full of life and history. They are hallowed ground for the soldiers and veterans who have trained and served at them. They enrich local communities with their legacy. They form fond memories, and they help relationships endure. They have meaning that transcends any one person or even a place, and that history belongs to all of us. So all of us should debate this together and move forward together. I am sorry that we have been denied an opportunity to do so today.

I yield the floor.

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 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 Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Mitch McConnell, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Cory Gardner, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lamar Alexander, Shelley Moore Capito, Rob Portman, Roy Blunt, John Barrasso, John Thune.

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 Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Arizona (Ms.

MCSALLY), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Ex.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—9

Burr	Markey	Murray
Enzi	McSally	Tillis
Hyde-Smith	Murkowski	Udall

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the Vought nomination.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Senator from Arkansas.

HONG KONG AUTONOMY ACT

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, what is happening at this moment in Hong Kong is a tragedy, a crime, an affront to the civilized world. In a year in which so much has happened, we may look back in the near future and view this moment in Hong Kong as the single biggest moment of the year. It is not getting enough attention, though, because the Communist Party is using the pandemic as cover for its crimes against Hong Kong.

Under the cover of night, the Communist Party's puppets in Hong Kong have enacted a security law that threatens to sweep aside the traditions and freedoms that have made that city such a special place. While the Chinese Communist Party hasn't yet rolled in tanks, as it did in Tiananmen Square, the effects of this law are no less chilling to democracy.

The security law imposes broad prohibitions on what it calls subversive activities. What kinds of activities? Activities like waving flags or chanting a slogan like "Hong Kong independence" or "Hongkongers, build a nation." In other words, the security law criminalizes basic elements of peaceful protests and democratic change that Hongkongers have used for years and that set them apart from their fellow citizens on the mainland.

The new law also erodes the rights of the accused that are essential to a fair legal system. The Chinese Communist Party isn't interested in rights or fairness. It is interested in control—total control—and this law exerts total control over the people of Hong Kong.

Under the new law, protesters accused of such vague crimes as separatism and collusion can be smuggled away to mainland China to be tried in Communist courts. The so-called crimes don't even have to be committed in Hong Kong in order to be punished; the new law could encompass expatriates with foreign citizenship living overseas—even here in America. So simply meeting with a U.S. Senator, like me or Senator MCCONNELL or Senator SCHUMER or Senator VAN HOLLEN, could land a Hongkonger in prison for a lifetime. The China Communist Party thus is extending its iron rule beyond its own shores to our free soil.

Those convicted under the new law could face life imprisonment, alongside the many underground church leaders, Uighurs, Tibetans, Falun Gong members, and other persecuted individuals the Chinese Communist Party has already "disappeared."

Indeed, the crackdown is already underway. The Chinese Communist Party's agents in Hong Kong rounded up as many as 300 protesters this week for what it called unlawful assembly. Some of the protesters were arrested under the supposed authority of the new security law. Their fate at this moment is unknown.

The takeover of Hong Kong may seem like an event far away, especially when we have so many problems at home. But the same could have been said after the Second World War when Stalin and the Soviet secret police dropped an Iron Curtain over Eastern Europe. Czechoslovakia and Poland were far away, too, but the brutal repression of their people showed the world what was at stake in the titanic struggle between freedom and communism.

We face the same sort of titanic struggle today, and it is not limited to Hong Kong. All across the periphery,