

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael Jay Newman, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, Mike Crapo, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Scott, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, John Thune, Todd Young, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, because of this illicit process, this rush to judgment, and the worst nomination proceeding of the Supreme Court in American history that has so defiled the Senate, I move to adjourn and to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, at 12 noon on the following dates and that, following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, October 23; Tuesday, October 27; Friday, October 30; Tuesday, November 3; and Friday, November 6; further, that if there is an agreement on legislation in relation to the COVID pandemic, the Senate may convene under the authority of S. Res. 296 of the 108th Congress; finally, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 6, it convene at 4:30 p.m., Monday, November 9, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That motion would require consent and is not in order.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. SCHUMER. I appeal the ruling of the Chair, and I move to table the appeal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion to table the appeal.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 206 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Blackburn	Boozman
Barrasso	Blunt	Braun

Burr	Hawley
Capito	Hoeven
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith
Collins	Inhofe
Cornyn	Johnson
Cotton	Kennedy
Cramer	Lankford
Crapo	Lee
Cruz	Loeffler
Daines	McConnell
Enzi	McSally
Ernst	Moran
Fischer	Murkowski
Gardner	Perdue
Graham	Portman
Grassley	Risch

Roberts
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Wicker
Young

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—5

Harris	Shaheen	Stabenow
Paul	Sinema	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to table was agreed to, and the decision of the Chair stands.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for such time as I shall consume.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, in July, the Senate passed the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, with 86 Senators from both sides of the aisle voting in support of it.

I am glad that we had such a strong vote because I believe—and I have always believed—it is the most important vote, most important bill that we do all year. The NDAA, as we call it—that stands for National Defense Authorization Act—is how Congress provides the policy and resources for our national defense for the ensuing year, and it always passes by a bipartisan bill. And it has now for 60 years in a row. Well, not quite 60. It is 59 years. It will be 60 when this bill is concluded.

There is not much we do around here anymore on a bipartisan basis for this long, but the NDAA is special. Here is why: Because each and every American benefits from the bill—each family, each community in each State. Oklahoma is no exception to this rule. What makes Oklahoma special is this. Just as much as this bill takes care of Oklahoma, Oklahoma takes care of the country by the very nature of those things, those functions that we perform each year, militarily.

As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have already been down here a lot talking about the NDAA and how this bill protects all Americans, how it cares for our military families, and how it gives our military the resources needed to defend this Nation.

Confession is good for the soul. I have to admit, as chairman, I made certain that the NDAA did the maximum benefit possible for Oklahoma. I want to talk a little bit about what the NDAA does for Oklahoma and how what we do in Oklahoma makes the rest of the country more secure—because it does.

Oklahoma is home to some of the Department of Defense's most valuable installations and assets, and it has been this way for the better part of a century. It is also the epicenter of public-private collaboration, where industry partners and universities and others work in close coordination with our military.

The defense programs based in Oklahoma protect our military advantage, making sure that we stay ahead—or, I should say, even better and more accurately now, get ahead of our competitors, especially China and Russia. I think we all understand now China and Russia are the greatest threat facing this Nation. We allowed them to—I don't say this critically of the previous administration, but during the previous administration, a lot of our military actually suffered some 25 percent, in terms of appropriations, during the last 5 years. That would have been from fiscal year 2000 to fiscal year 2015, and so we, in some areas, are not ahead of China and Russia.

I have been around for a long time. I am a lot older than some of the other people in here, and I remember the administrations since World War II. I always prided ourselves in that we had the very best of everything. We learned the hard way in World War II that that would be necessary.

Oklahomans know the importance of these programs that we have in Oklahoma, not just to our economy but to our national security. Not all Americans may know, so here are a few examples. When our planes fly long distances, sometimes they need to refuel, of course, and this can be in midair. Right now, the KC-135 has been the refueler of choice now for 60 years. It has done a great job. It is one that has lasted and has worked hard since 1956.

I remember back during the last administration—the Obama administration—I am a conservative Republican, and I wasn't real fond of the previous administration, but there is one person I really liked, and that was Deborah Lee James. She was the Secretary of the Air Force in the previous administration. She and I worked hard with the idea that we were going to have to do something about the KC-135; it had been around 60 years.

I remember, I said, when we were at Altus Air Force Base—that was where we were going to be delivering—that is the first KC-46 to replace the 135. And I remember saying that 60 years ago two wonderful things happened: No. 1, my wife Kay and I got married. And No. 2, the first KC-135 was delivered to Altus Air Force Base. Where is the KC-135 training and the maintenance base? It is in Oklahoma.