

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 Toby Crouse, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Jerry Moran, Lamar Alexander, Mike Braun, David Perdue.

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 Toby Crouse, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, 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 Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 234 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—5

Alexander	Harris	Warren
Grassley	Scott (FL)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Toby Crouse, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

ORRIN G. HATCH UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. LEE. Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4902, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4902) to designate the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the "Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the measure.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, this is legislation that would name the Federal courthouse in Salt Lake City, which was completed a few years ago, after my friend and former colleague and also a longtime mentor of mine, Senator Orrin G. Hatch.

Senator Hatch, long before he became a statesman, was a lawyer—and not just any lawyer, he was a lawyer's lawyer. He was really good. He received the prestigious Martindale-Hubbell AV rating as a litigator. His skills as a litigator were so good that they helped convince some of his friends and neighbors that he ought to seek public office. The first public office he sought as an elected official was to the U.S. Senate. He was elected in 1976.

He then served in the U.S. Senate from 1977 all the way up until 2019. During that 42-year time period, Senator Hatch had a profound impact not only on the U.S. Senate and his colleagues here—and he certainly did; he was a friend to everyone who knew him—but he also had a much broader impact, one that will have far-reaching, lasting, durable impacts on the Federal court system.

I took a look at a list of all Federal district judges—the trial court judges who have served on the Federal bench from Utah ever since our statehood. There are only about 20 people on that list. All but five of those came on to the court either during or right after; in other words, with some input—significant input from Senator Hatch.

Senator Hatch has also been a part of every judicial nomination in the con-

firmation process during that same 42-year period. I can't think of any other Utahian in the history of our State who has had anywhere near the kind of impact on the Federal judiciary as Senator Hatch. It is not just that he served on the committee throughout that time period that confirmed judicial nominees, whether to Federal district courts, to the courts of appeals, or to the Supreme Court—he certainly did have a lot of impact there—but his impact even went further than that, you see, because he sought to be a mentor to people interested in the law and in public policy everywhere. His service had an impact certainly on me as one of countless lawyers and other people interested in law and public policy in this country.

I remember watching proudly and with great admiration as he conducted himself as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee during the Robert Bork confirmation hearings. He had a certain commitment to the rule of law and to fundamental fairness that would be owed to anyone nominated to that or any other judicial position, and he was willing to make sure that the Senate did its job and that it didn't get mired in the politics of the day.

He had a great quote on this topic. He said: "Politics must not undermine the principles and standards we apply to every judicial nomination."

I watched over the years, in part, because I had first seen him participate in the Bork hearings. That got me interested in the Senate. In part, because of that example, that got me interested as a teenager to apply to be a Senate page. I later became a Senate page, appointed by Senator Hatch. I got to see him carry out his activities as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. And from then on, I always watched with careful attention when he was handling a judicial confirmation hearing.

I watched through the years as he handled the nomination hearings of individuals including: Justice Thomas, Justice Ginsburg, and, later, Justice Alito, my former boss. In each instance, he treated judicial nominees and literally hundreds of others like them with dignity and respect but also with the amount of thorough attention that lifetime appointment to the Federal judiciary demands.

In addition to this, he also liked to try to foster in others a genuine interest in the law. I remember, when I was serving as a law clerk to Federal District Judge Dee Benson in Salt Lake City—one of the brightest and most capable jurists ever to serve on the Federal bench, whether in Utah or anywhere else. He was a good friend, longtime ally and confidant of Senator Hatch's. I remember, while I was clerking for Judge Benson, right after I graduated from law school, Senator Hatch came by and just held a roundtable discussion with all the Federal judges. He not only seemed but was in fact conversant on all kinds of issues of

the law—not just the hot-button issues that people think of when they watch the news, but he was delving into arcane details of the law that really made me proud to have him representing me in the U.S. Senate from the State of Utah.

I got to know Senator Hatch even better after I got elected to the Senate, and he and I had the opportunity to work together as colleagues. Throughout all these experiences, I have come to revere him as someone who reveres the law.

For these reasons, I conclude that it is fitting for us to name this Federal courthouse in Utah after him. It is difficult to imagine anyone who has had the same impact on the Federal judiciary who has ever lived in or served from our State as Senator Hatch.

Madam President, I would like to yield some time to my colleague, the Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Senator LEE, thank you for your excellent remarks with regard to Senator Orrin Hatch. I rise to second what you said and to add a few words, some duplicative.

As you indicated, Senator Hatch dedicated his life to serving our country and our State, and he served in this body for some 42 years—a remarkable and extraordinary career of public service. And, of course, he was one of the longest serving chairmen of the Senate Judiciary Committee and, therefore, played a pivotal role in confirming many, many current and now-retired Supreme Court Justices. And while serving as chairman, he also helped shepherd hundreds of district and appellate judges through confirmation, including the majority of Utah's Federal judges.

His impact on the State of Utah is not just professional but also personal. Virtually anybody who stopped Senator Hatch and asked his opinion on a topic—he would stop, shake their hand, smile, and give them a full rapt attention. He is a tall drink of water, so you have to look up to Senator Hatch.

I came to him, following the crisis of 9/11, asking for his help in securing essential security funding for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002. Senator Hatch immediately took me to meet with other Senators, and he, along with others, was able to secure the funding necessary to make sure that our games were safe and were ultimately produced successfully in a way that made them the most successful Olympic Winter Games in history. He was and is an honorable public servant who continues to have tremendous impact on our State; therefore, it is only appropriate that Utah's Federal courthouse be named in his honor, and I am glad to support this legislation.

I yield my time back to Senator LEE.

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent that S. 4902 be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4902) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4902

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ORRIN G. HATCH UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, shall be known and designated as the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I am grateful my colleagues have chosen to allow this to pass into law. It is a great day for Senator Hatch, the State of Utah, and the United States.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the United States surpassed 11 million COVID-19 cases this past week. This comes just 6 days after our Nation recorded 10 million cases—1 million added to the 10 million in 6 days—making it the fastest transmission of 1 million new cases since the pandemic began. Nearly a quarter of a million Americans have died. This runaway crisis is alarming, it is deadly, and it demands action.

The city of Chicago began a stay-at-home advisory to help encourage people to contain the virus in our communities. Across Illinois, more than 5,000 patients have been hospitalized with COVID-19 each night for the past week. We have shattered new infection records nearly every day this month. Illinois has now experienced more than 597,000 cases, and we have sadly lost 10,875. My heart goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one.

In addition to trying to keep ourselves and our loved ones healthy and safe from the virus, Americans have also been struggling to deal with economic uncertainty, job loss, food insecurity, childcare—the list goes on and on and on. Here we are just days before Thanksgiving, and many of our neighbors are trying to pick the right day to go to the food bank so they can feed their families on this day of thanks.

Where is the sense of urgency on Capitol Hill when it comes to providing another round of economic impact payments, enhanced unemployment bene-

fits, funding for the food stamps—the SNAP program? Our country is in desperate need of help, and they are counting on us.

You would think a crisis of this scale would be the first order of business for the Republican-controlled Senate this week. Yet, while this pandemic continues to rage, too many Republicans in Congress refuse to even come to the table to negotiate a comprehensive, bipartisan relief bill. There are those who will, and I commend them. It takes real courage. Instead, their leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has scheduled votes this week on six barely qualified judicial nominees. The average age of this week's judicial nominees is 38.

You see, these are lifetime appointments. If you get somebody with the right answers to their political questions, then they will give you 20, 30, or more years while you have control of that court, and control of the court is more important, obviously, than coronavirus.

The youngest one of these nominees is Kathryn Mizelle. She is 33 years old. The American Bar Association took a look at her record and judged her “not qualified.” This is the 10th Trump nominee for a lifetime appointment to the Federal court who has been judged “not qualified” by the American Bar Association. You might say: I am sure that happens. Well, it didn't happen at all in the 8 years of the Obama Presidency. Not a single nominee who was judged “unqualified” was sent to Congress.

Another nominee, Stephen Vaden, who has been nominated for a lifetime position at the Court of International Trade, has never appeared before the Court of International Trade. He has never tried a case in any court. He will be a great judge once he figures it out.

We voted on Dr. Judy Shelton's nomination to the Federal Reserve Board. She is uniquely unqualified. Her economic views are almost humorous, they are so out of touch with reality. We are experiencing the worst recession in 75 years, and Dr. Shelton, by her stated views, is unprepared to contribute to dealing with this economic crisis.

It is the story of the 116th Congress. The Republican-controlled Senate spends month after month after month ignoring a raging pandemic and refusing to even consider the House-passed relief legislation.

Here is a good question for Members of the Senate: How many amendments has the Senate voted on this calendar year of 2020? Not counting impeachment—set that aside. But how many amendments to legislation have we considered in this calendar year? The answer is 27—27 amendments in this calendar year. That is an improvement, incidentally. In 2019, we considered exactly 22 amendments. Six of them were forced on us by Senator RAND PAUL of Kentucky, who basically said: I won't let you go home until you vote on this amendment. And, as Senator PAUL has