

and the NDAA is the logical place to have that vote on the Senate floor.

The Iraq war has been over for nearly a decade. An authorization passed in 2002 is no longer necessary in 2021. In no way will repealing this measure impact our ability to keep Americans safe nor impact our relationship with Iraq.

We will have other votes on amendments on the Defense bill as well. I look forward to working with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to move this important process forward.

So now I am going to move cloture on the NDAA.

I have some words to say about my dear colleague, Senator LEAHY, and some words to say on Build Back Better, but I will come at a later moment because I know my friend from Tennessee is waiting to do those things tonight.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Jon Tester, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Sherrod Brown, Mark Kelly, Tim Kaine, Jacky Rosen, Tina Smith, Ben Ray Lujan, John Hickenlooper, Christopher A. Coons, Raphael Warnock, Mazie Hirono.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory

quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, November 15, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor, and I thank the Senator from Tennessee for her courtesy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

CHINA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, as I have been saying, it has been so difficult to get people to realize what we are facing from the Chinese Communist Party. They are an adversary, and seeing the evidence of genocide in Xinjiang didn't seem to be enough to persuade people.

Then you have the reports that Beijing manipulated multiple international organizations when it comes to the origins of the COVID-19 virus. That wasn't enough.

Hearing the Chinese officials threaten our pharmaceutical and medical supply chains in the midst of a pandemic—that didn't seem to be enough.

Watching in horror as the Chinese Communist Party threatened the Hong Kong freedom fighters and as they have threatened our friends in Taiwan—that didn't seem to raise the attention for them that this is not our friend.

They are not a competitor. They are an adversary.

We have seen these effects of the Belt and Road Initiative on the global balance of power. They still haven't said: We have to deal with China.

Not even Beijing going out here and pushing their nuclear power has seemed to push some of our colleagues across the aisle, as they have not paid attention to what is happening with our nuclear deterrent capabilities and what China is doing.

So it leads a lot of Tennesseans that I talk to say: What is it going to take for Joe Biden and his administration to take these global threats seriously?

If you look at what is going on in China and that doesn't do it, are you looking at Iran? Are you looking at Russia and how they are posturing troops on the Ukrainian border?

What is finally going to get them to say: China is an adversary, the new "axis of evil"—with Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea. These are adversaries. They are intent on global dominance and taking us down.

You know, and I have to tell the Presiding Officer, I think that the answer to that question, if we look at these threats, it really frightens a lot of people.

When I talk to our veterans, as I did last week, many of them—it frightens them when they see the nonchalance in attitude of this administration as we talk about these issues that are threatening our Nation's security and freedom at home and abroad. When you talk about inflation, when you talk about crime in the streets, when you talk about what is happening in our schools, when you talk about what is happening globally, people see this as a

threat to their life here. They see it as a threat to our security abroad.

My hope is that what we will see is real governance and real leadership that will come from the Senate. And also we would like to see this come from the administration, that people would see decisions made in good faith, not decisions made in bad faith or trying to dismantle the institutions of this government.

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 Executive Calendar No. 401, Graham Scott Steele, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Thomas R. Carper, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Gary C. Peters, Martin Heinrich, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen.

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 Graham Scott Steele, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted "Nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 466 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Duckworth	Klobuchar
Bennet	Durbin	Leahy
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Lujan
Booker	Gillibrand	Manchin
Brown	Graham	Markey
Cardin	Hassan	Menendez
Carper	Heinrich	Merkley
Casey	Hickenlooper	Moran
Collins	Hirono	Murphy
Coons	Kaine	Murray
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Ossoff
Crapo	King	Padilla