

bucks, and the employer says: Well, I have 20 other people who are prepared to take the job, that is their goal. They do not believe the Federal Government should be involved in providing at least a minimum wage for the workers of this country.

They believe, among other things, that we should abolish the U.S. Postal Service, and I want to get into that. Their view is, again, the Postal Service, a Federal Government program—not a question of having a debate, how do you strengthen the Postal Service, what do you do, and what do you not do—they want to abolish the U.S. Postal Service.

Let me go to another quote from David Koch, which I think maybe is the most interesting of all. This is where they are coming from. This is their philosophy:

We oppose all government welfare, relief projects, and “aid to the poor” programs. All these government programs are privacy-invasive, paternalistic, demeaning, and inefficient. The proper source of help for such persons is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

I want to put into English what they say. What they are saying is they want to get rid of food stamps, they want to get rid of all nutrition programs, all affordable housing programs, Meals On Wheels Programs, which help vulnerable seniors, congregate meal programs, Head Start—which obviously are important to millions of working families and their children.

So you ask: Well, what happens if I am hungry and there is no food stamp program because they want to get rid of all of these programs, because they think the Federal Government should not be involved in these issues? What do we do when people are hungry when they can't find jobs?

Well, they can go to their local church, they can go to their local charity. Maybe they will get some help, maybe they won't. In other words, we are back to the days of Charles Dickens. We are back to the days of Charles Dickens where ordinary people and lower income people have no rights and no benefits. The only way they get help is if some charity is there to dole out some money.

I don't believe that is where the American people are, and I don't believe that is what the American people want.

Back In 1980, the Libertarian Party had a rather bold proposal, and they said: “We support the eventual repeal of all taxation.”

Essentially what they are saying is no more government. That is it. No more government.

There is going to be a vote in a few minutes, and I am going to see-saw, and I will be back on this issue. But I wanted to point out to what degree these folks, who are worth at least \$80 billion, whose wealth increased last year by \$12 billion, who have indicated they are prepared to spend as much as it takes to elect people who to some de-

gree or another—I am not sure all of the candidates they support agree with everything they say, but they know what they are doing. They are smart.

They are spending huge sums of money to create an America in which the wealthiest people will get huge tax breaks while working families, the middle class, the elderly, the children, and the sick will be left out on the street all by themselves. That is not the vision of America the American people believe in. I doubt there are 5 or 10 percent of the American people who believe in that vision, maybe less than that.

But when you have \$80 billion, and you are worth that much and can spend unlimited sums of money, you will have a huge impact on the political process, and you will have candidates who talk about this perspective, who defend this point of view, because that is where their money or campaigns comes from, rather than talking about the needs of working families or ordinary Americans.

Let me make this last point, and that is this: It was 34 years ago the Koch brothers said:

We urge the repeal of Federal campaign finance laws, and the immediate abolition of the despotic Federal Election Commission.

They have come so far in 34 years that that is now the position of a number of Republicans, including, as I understand it, the chairman of the National Republican Party.

What does that mean? It means if you repeal all campaign finance laws, the Koch brothers and other billionaires will not just be able to spend as much as they want on independent campaign expenditures, they will be able to give money directly to the candidates of their choice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time for debate has expired.

Mr. SANDERS. Let me conclude by saying: I hope everybody pays attention to what the Koch brothers stand for.

With that, I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF INDIRA TALWANI TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Talwani nomination.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all remaining time on both sides.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Indira Talwani, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts?

Mr. SANDERS. 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 assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 137 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Grassley	Murray
Ayotte	Hagan	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boxer	Hirono	Roberts
Brown	Hoehn	Rockefeller
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Chambliss	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Cochran	Kirk	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Levin	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Cruz	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCain	Vitter
Durbin	McCaskill	Walsh
Enzi	McConnell	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Fischer	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wicker
Franken	Moran	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murkowski	
Graham	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—8

Begich	Boozman	Landrieu
Blumenthal	Coburn	Pryor

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I was unavoidably detained and unable to participate in the vote to confirm Indira Talwani to be U.S. district judge for the District of Massachusetts. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

NOMINATION OF JAMES D. PETERSON TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, what is the next matter before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The next vote is to occur on the Peterson nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of James D. Peterson, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin?

Mr. GRAHAM. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 138 Ex.]

YEAS—70

Alexander	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Grassley	Murphy
Bennet	Hagan	Murray
Blumenthal	Harkin	Nelson
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boxer	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Brown	Hirono	Sanders
Burr	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Carper	Kaine	Stabenow
Casey	King	Tester
Chambliss	Kirk	Udall (CO)
Coats	Klobuchar	Udall (NM)
Collins	Leahy	Vitter
Corker	Levin	Walsh
Cornyn	Manchin	Warner
Donnelly	Markey	Warren
Durbin	McCain	Whitehouse
Feinstein	McCaskill	Wyden
Flake	Menendez	
Franken	Merkley	

NAYS—24

Barrasso	Inhofe	Roberts
Cochran	Johanns	Rubio
Crapo	Lee	Scott
Cruz	McConnell	Sessions
Enzi	Moran	Shelby
Fischer	Paul	Thune
Heller	Portman	Toomey
Hoeven	Risch	Wicker

NOT VOTING—6

Begich	Coburn	Landrieu
Boozman	Coons	Pryor

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF NANCY J. ROSENSTENGEL TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on the Rosenstengel nomination.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of Nancy Rosenstengel's nomination to serve as a District Court judge in the Southern District of Illinois.

Ms. Rosenstengel has the experience, integrity and judgment to be an outstanding member of the Federal bench. She has been nominated to fill the judgeship in the East St. Louis courthouse that was left vacant by the retirement of Judge G. Patrick Murphy last December. This vacancy has been designated as a judicial emergency, and I am glad that the Senate is moving forward to fill it.

Ms. Rosenstengel knows the East St. Louis Federal courthouse well. She currently serves as the Clerk of Court for the Southern District, a position she has held for the last 5 years. In this capacity, she serves as the chief administrative officer for the court and handles the day-to-day management of its functions. She has received widespread praise for her skillful handling of the court's operations and policies.

Previously, Ms. Rosenstengel worked in private practice at the law firm Sandberg, Phoenix and von Gontard, and she served for 11 years as a judicial law clerk to Judge Murphy, the judge she has been nominated to replace. As Judge Murphy's career law clerk, Ms. Rosenstengel assisted him in hundreds of civil and criminal proceedings. It is hard to imagine better training for a judgeship than the work Ms. Rosenstengel performed for over a decade at Judge Murphy's side.

Ms. Rosenstengel was born in Alton and currently lives in Belleville. She received her B.A. from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and her J.D. from Southern Illinois University School of Law.

Ms. Rosenstengel's nomination is historic. No woman has ever before served as an Article III Federal judge in the Southern District of Illinois. Upon confirmation, Nancy Rosenstengel will be the first. And she will do an outstanding job serving the people of the Southern District. She was recommended to me by a bipartisan screening committee that I established to review judicial candidates for the Southern District. I was proud to recommend her name to the President, and I appreciate the support of my colleague Senator KIRK for her nomination.

Ms. Rosenstengel had her hearing before the Judiciary Committee in January. In February, she was reported out of committee by a unanimous voice vote. In short, she is an outstanding nominee and I urge my colleagues to support her confirmation.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

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

All time is yielded back.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Nancy J. Rosenstengel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois?

Mr. MCCAIN. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 139 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Graham	Murphy
Ayotte	Grassley	Murray
Baldwin	Hagan	Nelson
Barrasso	Harkin	Paul
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boxer	Hirono	Roberts
Brown	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Scott
Coats	King	Sessions
Cochran	Kirk	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Corker	Lee	Tester
Cornyn	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCain	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Fischer	Merkley	Warren
Flake	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Moran	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Begich	Coburn	Pryor
Boozman	Landrieu	

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. REID. Madam President, on the next nomination, I ask unanimous consent to yield back that time, and this will be the last vote.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, the remaining votes, if any, will be by voice. On Monday we will have at least three votes starting at 5:30 p.m.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The bill 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be