

C. TRESCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2017.

PN667 NAVY nominations (13) beginning PATRICK P. DAVIS, and ending SEAN C. STEVENS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2017.

PN668 NAVY nominations (42) beginning JEFFREY A. ALSUP, and ending TERRY N. TRAWEEK, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2017.

PN711 NAVY nomination of Linda C. Seymour, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 26, 2017.

PN712 NAVY nomination of Chad J. Trubilla, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 26, 2017.

PN776 NAVY nominations (49) beginning PATRICK R. ADAMS, and ending JAMES T. WATTERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 13, 2017.

PN777 NAVY nomination of Randall G. Schimpf, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 13, 2017.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3219

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, August 1; further, 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; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Newsom nomination, with all time during morning business, recess, adjournment, and leader remarks counting postcloture on the Newsom

nomination; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

WELLS FARGO AND FORCED ARBITRATION

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, a number of Wall Street banks, car title lenders, big corporations, and payday loan sharks have two things in common: They have a record of ripping off consumers, and they have armies of expensive lawyers and lobbyists in Washington, in Columbus, and in State capitals all over this country who protect them from facing the consequences.

That is why it is so important that ordinary American consumers have their own cop on the beat—the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The recent abuses by Wells Fargo are the latest proof of how necessary the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's work is.

Less than a year ago, we learned that Wells Fargo secretly opened millions of phony bank and credit card accounts without customers' permission. The CEO of Wells Fargo had to resign as a result. This was an outrageous abuse of American consumers. The sheer size and scope of this scam are breathtaking. In total, Wells Fargo may have opened as many as 3.5 million unauthorized accounts—meaning, it opened these accounts without the accountholders even necessarily knowing that they did it, without permission—costing customers some \$2.5 million in fees.

The abuses are bad enough. To make matters worse, Wells Fargo tried to keep this scandal hidden from the public, and it used something called the “forced arbitration clauses,” which are buried in the fine print of customers' contracts, to deny them their day in court. There is hardly anybody in this country who has not confronted small print in a contract when signing that contract, especially with a financial institution. Customers first sued over these fake accounts back in 2013, but Wells Fargo then forced them into secret arbitration proceedings, keeping this scam under wraps and blocking consumers from obtaining any relief.

Last year, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and other watchdogs blew the lid off of this scandal. Customers sued once again, and, once

again, the bank tried to block them from getting relief in court. This time, because of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the LA Times, and others who shone a light on the scandal and on all of the bad press that went with it, Wells Fargo relented. So, after two congressional hearings and a flood of bad headlines, Wells Fargo is cutting a deal in its phony account scandal. Yet now we have learned that this is not the only scam that one of America's largest banks has pulled.

Just last week, we learned that the bank forced unwanted insurance on 800,000 auto loan borrowers, potentially pushing tens of thousands into default and repossession, and it is still using these forced arbitration clauses in its contracts in order to cheat future consumers, including in the contracts in this auto loan scam.

The only thing more outrageous than the fact that Wells Fargo continues to cheat its customers is the fact that Members of Congress—a lot of Members of Congress in this body and down the hall—are trying to make it even harder for those customers to seek justice in their overturning the arbitration rule. They think that forced arbitration and the fine print, which most people do not read and most people do not understand if they do read it, is legitimate. No wonder so many hard-working Americans believe that the system is rigged against them in Wall Street's favor.

These scams have caused real damage for hundreds of thousands of Americans as 275,000 Wells Fargo customers have been forced into delinquency by being charged for unnecessary insurance, and 20,000 vehicles have been unfairly repossessed because of this bank's behavior.

Wells Fargo is not alone. Santander has used forced arbitration clauses against servicemembers. It is a Spanish company that does business in the United States and uses forced arbitration clauses against American servicemembers—again, for illegal car repossessions. In 2015, Santander used forced arbitration to block an Army National Guard sergeant from seeking justice after the bank illegally repossessed his car while he was serving our country overseas.

I see that kind of thing happening at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. Air Force men and women are not always making big salaries, to put it mildly, as they are serving their country. They do not make a lot of money, and a lot of these young families struggle. Yet predators—companies like Wells Fargo and payday lenders—continue to prey on them. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau stands with them. The CFPB is looking out for folks like the Army National Guard sergeant, like those at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and like those at the Air Force bases in Springfield and Mansfield and Toledo and Youngstown.

Yet, with all of this happening, some Members of Congress, again, are doing