

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF KURT D. ENGELHARDT, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I understand both of the Senators from Louisiana have returned blue slips in support of this nominee and I support the nominee.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. KERRY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

NOMINATION OF JULIE A. ROBINSON, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to the nomination of Julie A. Robinson, of Kansas, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Julie A. Robinson, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, both of the distinguished Senators from Kansas have returned blue slips indicating their support for this nominee. The nominee is extraordinarily well qualified. And with their support, I also support the nominee and urge the Senate to confirm her.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, Julie Robinson is extraordinarily well qualified. She is the right person for the job. She has served as a bankruptcy judge. I have known of her and her work for a long period of time. Her family even years ago came to Kansas as Exodusters, freed slaves. So she really has had an extraordinary life. She is going to be an extraordinary judge.

I urge all my colleagues to support her nomination.

Thank you.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomina-

tion of Julie A. Robinson, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. HARKIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1731, which the clerk will report.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 1499

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader, may, at any time, at his selection, in conjunction with the minority leader, move to the consideration of Calendar No. 186, S. 1499; and that the bill would then be considered under limitations to be established in consultation between the two leaders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I ask to be permitted to proceed for a moment to discuss the unanimous-consent request I just made.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, may I ask the Senator to withhold until I propound a unanimous-consent request.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I understand the Senator is asking me if I would simply yield for the purpose of his propounding a unanimous-consent request.

Mr. KYL. That is correct.

Mr. KERRY. I am happy to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KYL. Madam President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, proceed to executive session no later than December 14 to consider Cal-

endar No. 471, the nomination of Eugene Scalia to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor, and I further ask unanimous consent that there be 3 hours for debate, with the time equally divided in the usual form, with no other motions in order; and I ask unanimous consent that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to the vote on the confirmation of the nomination, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I believe I have the floor after the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is the understanding of the Chair.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, I ask my colleague from Arizona, without losing my right to the floor, if his propounding of that request indicates that somehow his denial of the ability to proceed forward on the small business bill is linked to the request he just made regarding the nomination.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I would be happy to respond to my colleague. The answer to the question is no. As the Senator from Massachusetts is aware, there are ongoing negotiations with the Senator as well as the Senator from Missouri and representatives of the administration in an effort to reach a compromise on the legislation, and the Senator's request related to my unanimous-consent request related to the importance of considering Eugene Scalia as Solicitor for the Department of Labor, and I believed as long as we were making unanimous-consent requests to proceed to other business, I would take the opportunity to do so for that nomination.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Arizona. I would like to respond and say a few words, if I may, about the small business bill.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask the Senator if he will yield for a unanimous-consent request for just a moment.

Mr. KERRY. I am pleased to yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the Senator from Massachusetts very much.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DASCHLE. The pending business today is the farm bill, and we are awaiting the legislation to be introduced.

I ask unanimous consent that following the colloquy or the statement made by the Senator from Massachusetts, the Senate proceed to consideration of the bill itself for debate purposes only.