

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Bill Nelson, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Dianne Feinstein.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

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

Mr. REID. I withdraw my motion to proceed to S. 2609.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

USA FREEDOM ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S.2685.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I ask to have the cloture motion at the desk be reported.

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

The assistant 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Thomas R. Carper, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders, Carl Levin, Tom Udall, Charles E. Schumer, Mazie Hirono, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Moss nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as we return from recess for the remaining days of the 113th Congress, I begin by congratulating my friend Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY who will become chairman of the Judiciary Committee beginning in the 114th Congress. We have a very good working relationship, and I hope this will continue when he assumes the chairmanship in January.

We still have several weeks left in this Congress with much work left to be done. As history shows, when both sides work together, the lameduck session can be a productive one for filling vacancies on our courts. In 2002, after the midterm elections, Senate Democrats worked to confirm 20 of President Bush's judicial nominees—all but one by voice vote. In the 2006 lameduck session, after Senate Democrats won the majority in the elections, Democrats agreed to confirm the 14 judicial nominations pending on the floor, but this package was blocked by a Republican Senator. In the most recent lameduck sessions, in 2010 and 2012, a total of 32 judicial nominees were confirmed. With the 2014 midterm elections behind us, I hope we will, as the incoming majority leader suggests, "clear the decks" on pending business so that we can start fresh next year.

Currently, there are 16 district court nominations that have been pending before the full Senate for months and another eight district court nominations and one Court of International Trade nomination that will be reported out of the Judiciary Committee before the end of the month. There are also six nominees pending before the Senate to fill vacancies on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, two nominees to fill vacancies on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and three nominees to fill vacancies on the U.S. Tax Court.

Today, we will vote to overcome the needless filibuster of just two of the district court nominations that have been pending before the full Senate since June, one of which will fill a judicial emergency vacancy in Georgia.

Randolph Moss is nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Dis-

trict of Columbia. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Mr. Moss "well qualified" to serve on that court—its highest rating. Since 2001, he has been a partner at the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr LLP. He has also served in various capacities for the U.S. Department of Justice. Upon graduating from Yale Law School, Mr. Moss clerked for Judge Pierre N. Leval on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and for Justice John Paul Stevens on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Leigh May is nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer, LLP, in Atlanta, GA, where she has practiced since 2000. After graduating magna cum laude from the University of Georgia Law School, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

We still have much work to do to fill the 64 current judicial vacancies and 27 known upcoming vacancies on our Federal district and circuit courts. Before the end of this Congress we could cut the number of vacancies on our district and circuit courts by one-third. To get this done, however, we must stop delaying for delay's sake votes for consensus nominees. Unless there is cooperation from Republican Senators, we will not have time to clear the Executive Calendar before adjournment. At the very least, I would hope that the Republican Senators who recommended many of the pending judicial nominees to the President will work within their caucus to get consent to confirm their nominees.

I hope all Senators will vote to put an end to the filibuster of these nominations.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2280

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the leader's remarks on Tuesday, November 18, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 371, S. 2280, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; that there be up to 6 hours of debate equally divided between opponents and proponents; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of S. 2280; that no amendments, motions, or points of order be in order to the bill prior to the vote on passage; that the vote on passage be subject to a 60 affirmative-vote