



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021

No. 99

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, breathe upon us the awareness that You continue to dwell with us. Show our lawmakers Your constant love and faithfulness. As they find safety in Your presence, receive their gratitude and praise. Keep them covered until the raging storms are over. Lord, remind them that patient persuasion can break down the strongest resistance. Help them also to remember to see trouble coming and avoid it. Continue to answer their prayers as You fill them with Your peace.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK,

a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julien Xavier Neals, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Senate, today, will achieve an important milestone for the session. We will confirm the first of President Biden's judicial nominees—the first but, certainly, not the last, not even close. We will soon confirm Julien Neals to be a judge for the District of New Jersey. Afterward, we will turn to the nomination of Regina Rodriguez to be a judge for the District of Colorado. I greatly

look forward to confirming what will be the first of many judicial appointments during the Biden administration.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. President, later today, the Senate will take a final vote on the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, paving the way for the largest investment in science and technology for generations.

After 3 months of bipartisan negotiations, after the hard labor of 6 Senate committees, and after considering over 20 amendments from both sides of the floor, we should—and we will—pass this historic bill today. When all is said and done, the bill will go down as one of the most important things this Chamber has done in a very long time—a statement of faith in America's ability to seize the opportunities of the 21st century.

The ambitions of this legislation are large, but the premise is simple: If we want American workers and American companies to keep leading the world, the Federal Government must invest in science, basic research, and innovation, just as we did in the decades after the Second World War.

Technology firms currently make up a quarter—a quarter—of the global stock market. Whoever wins the race to the technologies of the future is going to be the global economic leader, with profound consequences for foreign policy and national security as well. Whoever harnesses the technologies, like AI, quantum computing, and innovations yet unseen, will shape the world in its image.

Do we want that image to be a democratic image, with a small “d,” or do we want it to be an authoritarian image like President Xi would like to impose on the world?

Either we can cede the mantle of global leadership to our adversaries or we can pave the way for another generation of American leadership. That is what this bill is all about, and I look

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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