Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 345, Robert Farrell Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Thomas R. Carper, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Jeff Merkley, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Gary C. Peters, Martin Heinrich, Brian Schatz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert Farrell Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 468 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Risch
Booker	Hirono	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rosen
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Johnson	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Schatz
Capito	Kelly	Schumer
Cardin	Kennedy	Shelby
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Thune
Cortez Masto	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Warnock
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young

NAYS—20

Barrasso	Hagerty	Rubio
Blackburn	Hawley	Sasse
Braun	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Murkowski	Tuberville
Cruz	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Hassan	Markey	Warren
Inhofe	Shaheen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 75, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Farrell Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 463, the nomination of Brian Nelson to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, and the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act, occur at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning, Wednesday, November 17; that if cloture is invoked on the Nelson nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader following consultation with the Republican leader; and finally, that at 5 p.m. today, the Senate execute the previous order with respect to the Kanter nomination to be an Assistant Attorney General.

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

Ms. SINEMA. For the information of the Senate, in addition to the previously scheduled vote on confirmation of the Bonnie nomination at 2:30 p.m. today, there will be a vote on confirmation of the Kanter nomination at approximately 5:15 p.m., and tomorrow at approximately 10 a.m., there will be two rollcall votes. Those votes will be on cloture on the Nelson nomination and cloture on the motion to proceed to the National Defense Authorization Act.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:01 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT FARRELL BONNIE

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of Robert Bonnie's confirmation as Under Secretary of Farm Production and Conservation at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If confirmed, Mr. Bonnie will oversee three Agencies at the USDA that are absolutely critical to the well-being of our Nation's farmers and ranchers and to our shared goal of addressing the climate crisis.

Taken together, the Farm Service Agency, the National Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency provide the first line of defense for our farmers and ranchers against droughts and floods and wildfires and other extreme weather.

These Agencies will also lead our efforts to provide voluntary solutions to help our farmers and ranchers lead the way in addressing the climate crisis.

In my home State of Michigan and across the Nation, producers are facing unseasonable freezes and thaws and dramatically unpredictable conditions that disrupt the planning and harvesting schedules they rely on for their livelihoods and for our food supply. As the climate crisis affects the way the agriculture sector operates, the work of the USDA and its staff to provide resources and knowledge for our farmers and ranchers is absolutely critical.

Without crop insurance, without disaster assistance, without our conservation programs, our farmers and ranchers will be left even more vulnerable. That is why we need competent, experienced leaders who are ready to lead these Agencies from day one.

Leading this mission area is a big responsibility but one that I know Mr. Bonnie is well-qualified to tackle. Throughout his career, Mr. Bonnie has built strong partnerships with farmers, with ranchers, with foresters, with communities.

This is also his second time leading a mission area at USDA as he was confirmed by voice vote as Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment in the Obama administration. There, he oversaw key public-private partnerships with foresters and private land owners, while leading the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

While working at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University, Mr. Bonnie worked closely with rural communities to tackle pressing conservation issues.

And at the Environmental Defense Fund, Mr. Bonnie focused on incentive-based approaches to promote stewardship on private lands.

At his hearing in the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, Democratic and Republican members alike praised Mr. Bonnie's extensive credentials and his commitment to tackling the climate crisis and boosting farm income at the same time.

That approach has earned him the support of many, many of the Nation's most respected farm and food organizations, including the American Farm Bureau and the National Farmers Union.

I am pleased to add my support to his nomination and urge my colleagues to vote yes on this extremely well-qualified nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum unless we—are we at a point to move forward on the vote?

I yield back all time and ask that we proceed to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Ms. STABENOW. I withdraw my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

COVID VACCINES

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I am proud to share with all of you the experience of California this last year in combating the COVID–19 pandemic. I am proud to say that California has led the way on COVID–19 prevention and vaccine because we have seen the devastation that surging cases can cause.

Last winter—remember where we were last winter? A catastrophic surge in my home county of Los Angeles overwhelmed local hospitals, as was the case, frankly, in many parts of the country. Families were desperate to find care for their loved ones. Ambulances struggled to find hospitals with capacity.

As we approach this winter season, I recognize that we made incredible progress turning the tide since those tragic times. Now, just a month ago, California achieved the lowest level of COVID–19 transmission of any State in the Nation, but today cases are beginning to rise again. We are seeing the effects of the changing weather.

We need to stay vigilant to prevent another devastating surge like the wave that peaked in California and across the country last winter.

Fortunately, today, we are armed with a powerful defense: an FDA-approved vaccine that is safe, that is effective, and that is free for all. California's historic vaccination effort—made possible by the resources that we helped deliver when we passed the American Rescue Plan—has covered more than three-quarters of our residents, more than 55 million shots in arms of Californians.

But now is not the time to let up. Every person who gets the vaccine helps to stop spread of the virus in our community. And we just received two new critical weapons: One, booster shots to increase protections for adults and, two, approval of a vaccine for children older than 5.

Colleagues, during last week's State work period, I had the privilege of joining leaders of the Los Angeles Unified School District for the opening of their first vaccine clinic, a mobile clinic on school sites for students ages 5 and up. I saw firsthand the anxious excitement of families looking forward to a freer, safer life for children. Imagine that, play dates with friends, holiday celebrations with grandparents, and relief for those with family members at higher risk.

Now, as parents of younger children, Angela and I know that this pandemic has especially been hard on children. For more than a year, as we would gather together to pray as a family, our youngest, Diego, whom many of you met, would ask God for COVID to be over. And he would then ask when a vaccine would be ready for him and his brothers.

That is why it was such a big deal when the vaccine was approved for children ages 5 and older. Angela and I were vaccinated earlier this year. Our oldest son, Roman, was vaccinated months ago. And, finally, last week, Diego and Alex received their vaccines. So we know that we are sharing this moment of joy with millions of families across the country who are relieved that our children will be better protected against COVID–19.

Colleagues, as we approach this now second Thanksgiving since the start of the pandemic, we recognize that we have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for the scientists who drew on years of research to design and test one of the most effective vaccines that we have ever seen. We are thankful for the doctors and nurses who are helping to administer the vaccine to as many people as possible while caring for the sick. And we continue to be thankful for all the essential workers who take on high-risk jobs to keep food on our tables and keep the economy going.

So it is in the spirit of all this that I ask each and every one of you to do your part. To everyone at home, please, each and every one of you do your part. Protect yourself. Protect your family. Protect your community. Get vaccinated. Get your children vaccinated. Go check to see if you are eligible for a booster, and if you are, find one near you at vaccines.gov. We have come to appreciate how vaccination is the key to a safe holiday season, and it is key to ending the pandemic for all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

VOTE ON BONNIE NOMINATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was scheduled to start at 2:30 begin immediately.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bonnie nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. 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 senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 469 Ex.]

YEAS—76

Baldwin	Graham	Portman
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blackburn	Heinrich	Risch
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Hoeven	Rounds
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shelby
Capito	Kennedy	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Luján	Thune
Coons	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	Marshall	Toomey
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Van Hollen
Crapo	Menendez	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Moran	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Ernst	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Ossoff	Young
Fischer	Padilla	
Gillibrand	Peters	

NAYS—19

Barrasso	Hawley	Sasse
Braun	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Murkowski	Tuberville
Cruz	Paul	
Hagerty	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—5

Hassan	Markey	Warren
Inhofe	Shaheen	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. SCHATZ assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA).

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Illinois.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of the Nelson nomination.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK LEAHY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the desk behind me is empty at this moment, but whenever anything important is taking place on the floor, you will find seated there the dean of the U.S. Senate, Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont.

This week, he surprised a number of us by announcing his retirement at the end of next year.

I have come to know PAT during my service in the Senate. He is a humanitarian. He is a gifted lawmaker and a