

Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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 Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 171 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

(Mr. OSSOFF assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50.

The Senate being evenly divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The majority whip.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Gordon nomination expire at 6 p.m. today and that upon disposi-

tion of that nomination, the Senate immediately vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 809, the nomination of Philip Nathan Jefferson to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, earlier today, the Senate took one of the most significant votes I have been a part of in my time in public service. While the Women's Health Protection Act didn't pass, this vote made it very clear where every Senator stands. The Republicans unanimously voted to criminalize abortion in more than half the States in America in just a few weeks. Democrats vowed to stop the Alito Court from turning the clock back on women's health by a century.

Let's be very clear about the consequences of this ruling when it becomes final. It will immediately criminalize abortion in many States. It will allow Republicans to pass a law criminalizing abortion in all 50 States. It will throw out the constitutional right to privacy—a right upon which marriage and choice and many other civil rights depend. It will put government and governments in control of women's bodies for millions and millions of people across America. This is a terrifying prospect.

It is no secret that people have been considering what would happen if and when this far-right Supreme Court would throw out Roe. Less than a month ago, I was on the floor talking about the end of Roe and the danger to Griswold v. Connecticut, the case that affirmed the right of married people to use contraception. However, it is still a shock—a gut punch—to see how eager our colleagues on the other side are to strip women of their constitutional freedoms and endanger their lives.

They are going a lot further—a lot further—than simply overturning Roe. All the talk about States' rights seems to have gone out the window. The goal is a Federal abortion ban, Federal criminalization.

Already, Republicans, including Governors and statehouse leaders, are talking about banning birth control. I will say that again. This year, 2022—not 50, 75 years ago; 2022—they are talking about banning birth control. Already, there are plans to restrict people's freedom of movement, criminalizing women who travel to other States for an abortion and even the person who gives them a ride. No sugarcoating can be done here. We are talking about enacting laws that reach beyond State borders, hearkening back to the darkest days of our history.

This far-right Alito Court has already given far-right lawmakers a green light to do what it wishes to do when it comes to abortion. There is no reason to trust this Court to draw the

line at restricting women's freedom of movement.

Another closely related issue that ought to frighten millions of women is the prospect that, with abortion criminalized, women's personal data is going to be weaponized against them by bounty hunters and the government.

I have been sounding the alarm for years about the abuse of location data taken from people's cell phones. In a world where Sam Alito is in charge of abortion laws, that is one massive, massive crisis. Shady data brokers are already tracking women who go to Planned Parenthood clinics, and they will sell that data to anybody around who has a credit card. Imagine for a moment what not just prosecutors but these deranged far-right vigilantes can do with this data. The apps women use, the websites they visit, the places they go—all of it can be used against them by prosecutors.

In short, this is uterus surveillance. That is what is coming down the pike unless Congress acts and gets serious about consumer privacy and prohibiting the government from making end runs around the Fourth Amendment.

It is a shock to me how little concern there seems to be for some of these big issues. It is a full-out sprint toward massive government overreach and severe restrictions on women's freedom and privacy.

There is zero thought—zero—given to victims of rape. There is zero thought—zero thought—given to victims of incest. There is zero thought to women being exploited after being forced to seek back-room abortions, zero thought given to how many more women will die—die—as a result of this ruling. Complications during pregnancy could become a death sentence in States like Texas, where law enforcement has already shown the willingness to arrest a woman for having a miscarriage. A woman's tragedy of losing a baby can be compounded by the very real threat of criminal prosecution.

Through all of this, abortions will still happen; they will just happen in conditions that are much less safe than they are now.

I know that there are Members on the other side who are always quoted as saying they care about these issues. They have been saying it for years. Yet now the Senate is at this moment. Not a single Republican Senator voted to protect the law as it stands today.

The vast majority of people in Oregon and all across the country oppose what the Alito Court is inflicting on them by tossing out Roe. This is extreme judicial radicalism, proof that these Justices were pretty much blowing smoke when they told Senators they would respect precedent if they were confirmed.

The bottom line now is this: If you don't have control over your own body, you are not free. The Alito Court is denying women control over their own

bodies. This is an attack on their freedom, a denial of Americans' right to privacy.

Criminalizing abortion is wrong, plain and simple. And you have to ask and certainly people from one end of the country to another tonight are going to ask, how can this be allowed to stand?

Tonight is not the end of this battle. The Senate has taken one vote. Now Americans must cast their vote and make it clear whether they want to be part of MITCH MCCONNELL's new reality.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

INFLATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about America's inflation crisis. And it is a crisis.

Today, Americans woke up to basically two gut punches: One, they found that gas prices are the highest they have ever been—ever—in the history of this country and, the second, that the inflation number is still incredibly high and actually higher than was anticipated by the government's so-called specialists.

Well, last week, the senior Senator from Illinois came to this floor, and he said Republicans want the midterm elections to be about inflation and the border. I think the Senator intended his comments to be a criticism of Republicans, but I would point out to the Senator from Illinois, that is exactly what the American people say this election ought to be about: inflation and the border. It is not Republicans who are making that the election issue for 2022. No, it is what the American people say they want to vote on.

Frankly, it is also the Democrats because they created both of these crises. So this is going to be an up-or-down vote on how well the Democrats have done with the border and with our economy and the inflation that is crushing so many families at home all across the country.

Nobody forced the Democrats to vote to cram a \$2 trillion spending bill through Congress last March. Oh, no. Party-line vote—the Democrats in this body, NANCY PELOSI and the Democrats in the House, and Joe Biden only 2 months into his Presidency. Democrats said: Oh, no, no. It is coronavirus.

That is what they said it was for, but when you take a look at that bill, only \$1 out of every \$11 actually went for medical care. The rest went to a big Democrat wish list that includes government checks to illegal immigrants. These are criminals behind bars who received checks from the government

in the name of coronavirus relief. Nobody forced the Democrats to open the southern border. So the crisis that we have of inflation and the crisis that we have on the border are both crises of choice by the Democrats.

Now, here we are, 15 months into the Democrats' administration. The No. 1 issue in America today is inflation—40-year-high inflation numbers. Nine out of 10 Americans—Mr. President, I would just point out 9 out of 10 Americans hardly ever agree on anything, but 9 out of 10 Americans are concerned and upset about inflation. It is really not hard to see why.

This week, just like last week, terrible economic news for working families: gas prices, again, at an alltime high. The price of a gallon of gasoline today is \$2 higher for each and every gallon when people go to fill up than the day Joe Biden became President. This morning, a new alltime high. Yesterday an alltime high. Higher yet this morning for gasoline. Inflation, a 40-year high.

The prices are going up much faster than wages. In fact, this gap between prices and wages continues to grow. People are falling further and further behind. The average family is poorer today than they were the day Joe Biden took office in terms of their ability to buy goods and services in our economy from the dollars they have in their pockets. This is even for people who have gotten raises.

People can't afford necessities like baby formula, if they can find baby formula—a hard time finding that all across the country. It finally made the national news last night, but I have been hearing about it in Wyoming now for a number of weeks.

Credit card debt is also near an alltime high. Why? Because people in the Biden economy are having to borrow more and more money just to get by. And the interest rates on these credit cards are also at an alltime high. So people are being punished again and again and again in so many ways that they turn in the Biden economy. People are paying more and more and getting less and less, and people are not happy.

People have been pushed to the breaking point, and they are angry. And they are angry at the Democrats, who put us, as a Nation, into this mess. Americans haven't been this pessimistic about the economy since the great recession. When they look at Washington, DC, they see a Senate with CHUCK SCHUMER claiming to be in charge, a majority in the Senate; they look at NANCY PELOSI claiming to be in charge of the House and Joe Biden in the White House saying he is in charge there.

Yet the President spoke yesterday and spoke today, and for the people in charge, he wants no responsibility for what is happening in this country with this economy. He said it yesterday. He said it again today. He was full of blame, full of excuses, full of not tell-

ing the truth to the American people. He blamed somebody else.

It took him just 30 minutes in his speech. Joe Biden blamed—let me go through this whole list of the folks he blamed in just 30 minutes. He blamed coronavirus. He blamed Russia. He blamed meatpacking. He blamed shipping. He blamed Republicans. He blamed oil companies. He blamed everybody but himself.

At the same time, he actually admitted in the speech that Democrats are in power. They don't have power to do anything other than blame other people. He admitted that Democrats control the White House and the House and the Senate.

We do not have a Harry Truman moment here, who said, "The buck stops here." Oh, no, no. Joe Biden keeps trying to pass the buck. He has been finger-pointing at Republicans, and in doing so, he earned three Pinocchios from the Washington Post. Those are the people who look into this and say, Is the President really telling the truth? No, no, no. Three Pinocchios.

Yet Joe Biden, after receiving that grade, the failing grade from the Washington Post, he repeated the same lie yesterday, finger-pointing again and again. He is telling people that he cut spending. He hasn't. In fact, Joe Biden has been the most economically reckless President in the history of this country—reckless.

The American people remember that Joe Biden took \$2 trillion on the credit card with a bill that he had passed by the House and the Senate and signed in March. He was gleeful at the signing ceremony. He signed the single most expensive spending bill in the history of the country.

Inflation started soon thereafter. The crisis mounted month after month after he had signed the bill. Oh, you remember when the President said: Oh, it is transitory. Forget about it. Don't look over there. Go away quickly.

Month after month after month, the President dismissed it, ignored it, denied it. The American people remember that, just 6 months later, Joe Biden tried to pass another massive spending bill. Joe Biden has never cut a dime of spending in his life, but he has added trillions of dollars to our debt.

What did he get us? The worst inflation in 40 years and a stagnant economy. There are still a million fewer Americans working today than there were before the pandemic struck.

Under Joe Biden, we have created a lot fewer jobs than the economists expected. The economists have gotten it wrong again and again. They got it wrong in terms of how many jobs they expected to be made, and they got it wrong today when they thought what the inflation rate would be. And, in both cases, their projections were more optimistic than the actual results turned out to be.

Last year, we created fewer jobs in America than were projected without the spending bill, and he said the