

whether we will have a shutdown or not, but I know it is unfair to treat coastguardsmen like the red-haired stepchild of our Armed Forces.

The men and women of the Coast Guard, when disaster strikes—and, look, I saw firsthand, when Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the incredible heroism of coastguardsmen who risked their lives to save people in harm's way.

What just happened on the Senate floor is not right, and I would encourage Democrat leadership to listen to their own Democrat chairman of the Commerce Committee, their own ranking member of the Coast Guard committee and say: We are going to end this unfair discrimination against the Coast Guard. We are going to treat our Armed Forces with equity, and regardless of dysfunction in Washington, we are going to pay our Coast Guard.

It is the right thing to do, and I would urge members from both sides of the aisle to come together and say: Just as we know the Coast Guard has our back if we are in trouble, that we have got their back as well. It is the right thing to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am shocked, disappointed, and, to be honest, stunned. I didn't think anyone was going to object to this bill. It makes no sense to do so. I didn't understand the Senator from Washington's explanation. Her colleague from Washington is actually the chairman of the Commerce Committee and a cosponsor of this bill.

So, again, this is a no-brainer. None of us want a government shutdown, but, if it happens, we can't let what happened in 2019 be repeated. And what happened in 2019 was that every member of the military services was paid, with the exception of the Coast Guard. And I have told them that we won't let that happen again.

So I am going to keep coming down to the floor with Senator CRUZ, and we are going to get this bill passed.

And if you are watching and you are a Coast Guard member and you understand what happened, Democratic leadership in the U.S. Senate just blocked this bill—a bipartisan bill to make sure you get treated fairly in the event of a government shutdown.

It is the right thing to do. Senator CRUZ and I will keep working it to make sure this happens.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON SMITH NOMINATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask consent that the vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

Mr. CARDIN. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 239 Ex.]

YEAS—96

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Graham | Paul |
| Barrasso | Grassley | Peters |
| Bennet | Hagerty | Reed |
| Blackburn | Hassan | Ricketts |
| Blumenthal | Hawley | Risch |
| Booker | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Boozman | Hickenlooper | Rounds |
| Braun | Hirono | Rubio |
| Britt | Hoeven | Sanders |
| Brown | Hyde-Smith | Schatz |
| Budd | Johnson | Schmitt |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Schumer |
| Capito | Kelly | Scott (FL) |
| Cardin | Kennedy | Shaheen |
| Carper | King | Sinema |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Cassidy | Lankford | Stabenow |
| Collins | Lee | Sullivan |
| Cooms | Lujan | Tester |
| Cornyn | Lummis | Thune |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin | Tillis |
| Cotton | Markey | Tuberville |
| Cramer | Marshall | Van Hollen |
| Crapo | McConnell | Vance |
| Cruz | Menendez | Warner |
| Daines | Merkley | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Moran | Warren |
| Durbin | Mullin | Welch |
| Ernst | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Fetterman | Murray | Wicker |
| Fischer | Ossoff | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Young |

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Feinstein | Romney |
| Murkowski | Scott (SC) |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). 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 Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2721

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I was Governor of Florida from January 2011 through January 2019, and we had a variety of disasters. We had four major hurricanes; we had wildfires; we had flooding—a variety of things.

What you find out in that role as Governor is you find out the importance of the Federal Government. FEMA is very important to disaster relief.

Disaster relief is partially borne by whomever is impacted, a family or a business. Partially, it is impacted by the city or county, partially by the State, and partially by the Federal Government.

My experience with FEMA is they are hard-working individuals that work

hard to try to be a good partner with our States.

Last September, about 12 months ago, we had a horrible hurricane in our State, Hurricane Ian. We lost over 150 people. We had unbelievable damage. FEMA has been a partner in that hurricane relief.

Just recently—about 3 weeks ago, 4 weeks ago—we had another hurricane, Idalia, and again FEMA came down and is a partner in that hurricane relief.

I met with President Biden 3 weeks ago when he came down to tour the damage, and I talked to him about the importance of getting FEMA fully funded.

There is a Federal Disaster Relief Fund that is part of FEMA that pays for things like debris pickup, helps individuals who have lost their homes, helps our small businesses—a variety of things like that.

Right now, this thing is getting low on funds. I checked on September 11. It is down to \$2.5 billion. And they project, by the end of this month, it will be down to \$550 million. What they also told me is that there is a community in every State in this country that is getting impacted by the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund.

So I have been trying, for months, to get a vote on a bill which is pretty commonsense. No. 1, it will put funds into FEMA so they can provide help for all these communities in every State. No. 2, the next thing it does is helps our farmers.

Our farmers in Florida have been waiting for almost 12 months for relief from the Department of Agriculture. Historically, what the Department of Agriculture did, especially when I was Governor, was they would provide a block grant to the State, to our farmers, so the money could get out to our farmers quicker.

For whatever reason, Secretary Vilsack, the Secretary of Ag, has decided now that he has to have separate legislation from Congress that gives him specific authority that he can do a block grant.

It has never happened before. But for whatever reason, he believes it has to happen now. That is in this bill.

The Army of Corps of Engineers is a key partner in beach renourishment in any State that has been impacted. I know our Presiding Officer had wildfires, and I am sure their beaches have had some impact. So it would also help our Army Corps of Engineers, help with beach renourishment, and also help our military installations after a disaster.

So mine is a commonsense bill. It impacts some community in every State in the country. So what I am asking for is a stand-alone vote on my bill. It is called the Federal Disaster Responsibility Act. I hope every Senator here will unanimously agree that we should do this.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged

from further consideration of S. 2721 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask that the Scott-Rubio substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passing the bill, as amended, with a 60-vote affirmative threshold required for passage of the bill; finally, if passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, may I say that I appreciate that Senator SCOTT would like to accelerate disaster aid to his home State. But let me observe that disasters have taken place not only in Florida but in the Presiding Officer's home State of Hawaii, in Vermont, in New York, in Louisiana, and other States as well.

And in response to that, what President Biden did was made a request to Congress in August to pass a comprehensive emergency supplemental that includes an increase in funding for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. It also includes \$45 million for the Department of Ag and \$15 million for the Department of Interior to support more than 20,000 firefighters who are out there braving this explosion in new wildfires that are taking place across our country.

This is driven by climate change. Let's be clear about that. We have had 14 named storms so far in the 2023 hurricane season. If you look back at last year, weather-related damage in the United States topped 165 billion. We have had testimony in my Budget Committee from OMB that climate change will cost the Federal budget \$2 trillion per year.

We cannot address this piecemeal, and we cannot address it only by providing disaster relief and not doing anything useful to head off these risks. Some of these are what economists call systemic risks. "Systemic" doesn't sound like it is a very big word, but what it means is the risk cascades out of the area where the economic harm is taking place to trash the whole economy. Just the way the 2008 mortgage meltdown didn't just trash the banks that had the bad mortgages, it took down the whole U.S. economy—that is predicted for coastal property value crash; that is predicted for a wildfire uninsurability crash; that is predicted for a carbon bubble crash.

And the insurance meltdown has already begun in Florida, in Louisiana, and in Texas. So the warning signs of another 2008-scale financial crisis are already flashing red. And behind those immediate warning signs looms the collapse of Earth's basic natural operating systems that science has predicted for decades and with real precision.

We need to do a lot more than just clean up. We do need to clean up the

disasters, but we also need to get the predisaster preparation resources in because we know this is coming, and we know it is getting worse. And we absolutely need to head off the root cause of all of this, which is fossil fuel emissions choking our atmosphere with greenhouse gases, heating up the Earth, and causing us to spin out from basic conditions of habitability of the Earth that have existed for tens of thousands of years.

So what we should do is pass the continuing resolution with full funding for the President's supplemental request for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund, for the Department of Agriculture firefighter money, for the Department of Interior firefighter money, and while we are at it, because President Zelenskyy was here today, I will also add that it is really important to continue to support Ukraine.

For those reasons, I will object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's concern about some of these other issues. I think we ought to have a discussion about those and see if we can get something done. But right now, the Disaster Relief Fund is going to be down to the \$550 million by the end of this month. There is a community in every State—and this fund only covers where it fits within the parameters where FEMA says that the Federal Government is responsible for a portion of it. But this would help a community in every State in the country. So I hope, at some point, we can get this passed. There is a community in every State in this country that is getting impacted by this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Iowa.

CREDIT SUISSE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, earlier this year, Chairman WHITEHOUSE and I began bipartisan work to investigate Credit Suisse's historical servicing of Nazi-linked accounts. Today, I would like to discuss this important bipartisan work and thank Senator WHITEHOUSE and his staff for their assistance on this very important topic.

In March of 2020, Simon Wiesenthal Center notified Credit Suisse that it found previously undisclosed information relating to the bank's Nazi ties. The bank, to its credit, initially took steps in the right direction and agreed to investigate. It even retained a research firm to conduct a forensic review. It even retained former TARP Inspector General Neil Barofsky to oversee that review as an independent ombudsman, and they also had U.S. Envoy Ira Forman as an independent adviser.

But after Credit Suisse hired a new general counsel—so a new person stepped in—the bank paused its review, limited experts' access to records, and terminated Barofsky and Forman; very odd acts to take compared to the positive start of this investigation.

Anyway, the bank cited performance issues for the termination. Well, the then-general counsel's predecessor never expressed those concerns, and the bank's research firm described Barofsky as professional. And I happen to know some of Barofsky's work, and he is, in fact, a professional.

Barofsky drafted a report about what he observed at the bank and found, as he was contractually obligated to do. So Chairman WHITEHOUSE and I issued the Budget Committee's first subpoena since 1991 to obtain that report.

Credit Suisse had prevented Barofsky from providing us a fully unredacted report. Ultimately, we not only obtained that report fully unredacted but also the bank's own report.

So then what did Chairman WHITEHOUSE and I find? Credit Suisse did not review and investigate all relevant records. For example, Credit Suisse did not use a full dataset from its predecessor's bank.

It inconsistently collected and reviewed information such as account balances. Credit Suisse failed to review allegations that Nazi heirs had sought access to bank accounts.

When the review pointed to evidence of wrongdoing beyond Argentina, Credit Suisse stated the information was "out of scope" and then didn't do any investigation.

Now, even after those limitations, the reports revealed new information, including nearly 100—and let me emphasize "100"—previously undisclosed Nazi-linked accounts. Some accounts remained open as recently as the year 2020.

And when we finally got an unredacted version, it showed evidence that 64,000—let me emphasize "64,000"—sets of potentially relevant records related to Nazi-linked accounts were not part of the investigation.

Credit Suisse claims that they are irrelevant without giving us a sufficient explanation. Credit Suisse also blocked its independent oversight that included Barofsky, Forman, and also a historian hired to assist the investigation from accessing critical evidence.

The reports also raised brandnew questions about the bank's potential support for Nazis fleeing justice following World War II via the infamous ratlines.

Until pressured by Chairman WHITEHOUSE and me, Credit Suisse had refused to fully investigate allegations of its potential role aiding Nazis' escape from justice via the ratlines.

So, today, despite multiple requests, Credit Suisse still refuses to share exact details on the scope of its ongoing ratlines review. This is unacceptable.

And do you know what else is unacceptable? Credit Suisse's actions after we made those reports public are unacceptable. The bank issued a press release on April 19 of this year filled with one excuse after another. The bank's press release essentially ignored its own report. It also incorrectly claimed