

of the historical evidence and court precedent and find that it is fully constitutional.

I do not believe it is necessary to engage in a lengthy discussion about the line item veto since the Senate has already debated this subject vigorously and I believe the record speaks for itself. I would, however, like to remind the Senate that two former solicitors general—one Democrat and one Republican—testified before Congress that the law is fully constitutional. The American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service reviewed the law and asserted “nothing in delegation doctrine suggests that Congress may not delegate powers . . .” And the Justice Department reviewed the legislation before the President signed the bill and determined it was constitutional.

In closing, let me say, I look forward to working with the President to help him identify spending and tax provisions that he should cancel. I hope that President Clinton has the political courage to exercise this authority diligently and will not bow to the prolific spenders in Congress, thus squandering this historic opportunity. The American people have waited for this for over 120 years. Let us not disappoint them.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

Before the Chair's ruling, for the information of all Senators, this is a resolution that allows the Senate legal counsel to file a brief on behalf of the Senate with regard to support for the line-item veto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution and its preamble are agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 21) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 21

Whereas, in the case of *Sen. Robert C. Byrd, et al. v. Franklin D. Raines, et al.*, C.A. No. 97-0001, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the constitutionality of the Line Item Veto Act (Public Law 104-130; 110 Stat. 1200), has been placed in issue;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(c), 706(a), and 713(a) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (2 U.S.C. 288b(c), 288e(a), 288l(a)), the Senate may direct its counsel to appear as amicus curiae in the name of the Senate in any legal action in which the powers and responsibilities of Congress under the Constitution are placed in issue: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is directed to appear as amicus curiae on behalf of the Senate in the case of *Sen. Robert C. Byrd, et al. v. Franklin D. Raines, et al.*, to defend the constitutionality of the Line Item Veto Act.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now re-

turn to executive session to consider the nomination of William Cohen, to be Secretary of Defense, and that the time on the nomination be limited to 20 minutes under the control of the chairman, Senator THURMOND, and 15 minutes under the control of the ranking member, Senator LEVIN, and following the conclusion or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of Senator Cohen.

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

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM COHEN OF MAINE TO BE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES

The legislative clerk read the nomination of William Cohen of Maine to be Secretary of Defense of the United States.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have just one bit of clarification. We had hoped to have a full discussion of support for Senator Cohen on Thursday. But we do have the wake and funeral of our former colleague, Senator Tsongas. We are trying to accommodate Senators who need to leave this afternoon to go up to Massachusetts for the wake and for other commitments that were made tonight. We needed to go ahead and get this done today because Senators would not get back until late tomorrow afternoon. I apologize to Senators who may not have as much time as they wanted. I encourage those Senators to stay after the vote to speak on this, if they wish.

So for the information of all Senators, another vote is expected on the confirmation of our former colleague, Senator Cohen, at approximately 3:25 p.m. today.

Following that confirmation vote, there will be an additional period for morning business in which to introduce bills and make statements. However, there will be no further rollcall votes today. The next opportunity the Senate will have for votes, at this point, looks like Tuesday of next week. But we will further confirm that when we do our closing statement later today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I yield myself 2½ minutes.

I want to thank the majority leader, Senator LOTT, and the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, for taking up the nomination of our former colleague Senator Bill Cohen to be Secretary of Defense. As all Senators know, Secretary Perry, who has ably led the Department of Defense for the past 3 years, has departed. It is therefore essential that we fill the position of Secretary of Defense as quickly as possible.

The Armed Services Committee met this afternoon in an executive session and unanimously voted to recommend the confirmation of Senator Cohen as the 20th Secretary of Defense. Senator

Cohen is well known by all Members of the Senate for his distinguished 18 years of service in the Senate representing the people of Maine. Each of us is aware of his character, ability, and dedication to providing unquestioned support for our men and women in uniform. Senator Cohen has repeatedly demonstrated a vision for how the United States must meet its defense needs. I believe that as the Secretary of Defense, Bill Cohen will continue to demonstrate the strong independent characteristics of New England gentlemen and will lead the Clinton administration to provide adequately for the security of the Nation and those who serve in our Armed Forces.

Mr. President, as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, I urge the Senate to confirm William S. Cohen, a dedicated public servant, as the next Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. LEVIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. President, I am pleased to join the chairman of the Armed Services Committee in supporting the nomination of our former colleague, Senator Bill Cohen, to be Secretary of Defense.

I want to commend President Clinton for his willingness to reach across party lines to select a creative and independent thinker like Senator Cohen to serve as his Secretary of Defense. With this appointment, the President has shown his commitment to a bipartisan foreign policy and a strong national defense. He has selected someone who has very strong feelings about the role of Congress in making national security and foreign policy, and on the need for close consultation between the President and Congress in this area. I hope that Congress will reciprocate by working closely and constructively with the President and his new Secretary of Defense.

Mr. President, I come from a State that was represented in the Senate for 23 years by Senator Arthur Vandenberg, who perhaps more than any other Senator in history stands for bipartisanship in national security and foreign policy. I also sit on the Armed Services Committee where Senator Cohen, for 18 years, served with me and displayed to me over and over and over again, as he did to all of our colleagues during this period, his instinct to be a true American patriot—not a Republican, not a partisan, but a patriot when it comes to American security and foreign policy issues. I look forward to working with him in his new capacity to continue that tradition.

Senator Cohen's experience in the Senate should serve him well as he moves on to his new position. In his capacity as a member of the Armed Services Committee, Senator Cohen has been a leader in virtually every major

national security debate in the Congress for the past two decades. He was a forceful advocate for improving the quality—and the quality of life—of the All Volunteer Force in the late 1970's. He played a key role in the Armed Services Committee in drafting and passing the landmark Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act in the mid-1980's, as well as the legislation that strengthened our Special Operations Forces. He has been an innovative thinker in the area of arms control, and he helped force a bipartisan compromise on antiballistic missile policy in the last Congress.

Senator Cohen has also shown his ability to work in a constructive manner across party lines on the Governmental Affairs Committee, where he and I served on the same subcommittee for 18 years, alternating as chairman and ranking minority members. We worked together on all of the recent acquisition reform legislation, including the Competition in Contracting Act, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, and the Information Technology Management Reform Act. We cooperated on oversight hearings that led to significant savings in defense inventory, the purchase of commercial items, and DOD travel costs—everything from the purchase of commercial items—where we worked closely together to make sure we buy more commercial items, to DOD travel costs—where we worked to try to reduce the administrative costs associated with DOD.

Outside the defense arena, we worked side-by-side on the Senate floor to enact the Independent Counsel Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, and the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

The Department of Defense and the Nation are fortunate to have been served by a long line of capable and effective Secretaries of Defense. I look forward to working with Senator Cohen to help him continue that tradition of effective leadership, and I am confident that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle share this view.

Mr. President, at this morning's hearing of the Armed Services Committee, I shared with Senator Cohen my experience from a visit that I recently made to Bosnia with Senator JACK REED, during which we met with our military personnel—the men and women of our Armed Forces serving there—and our leadership, as well as the governmental leadership inside Bosnia and Serbia.

We met with the three Presidents and two Prime Ministers of Bosnia and Hercegovina, with General Crouch, the Stabilization Force or SFOR Commander, and the United States and French sector commanders and troops, the Dayton Agreement High Representative Carl Bildt, and United States Embassy personnel.

As a result of these meetings, I have reached a conclusion, which I shared with Senator Cohen this morning, that two things are going to be true relative

to Bosnia. One, that we are going to need some kind of an outside force at the end of the 18-month period which is currently the mission length in Bosnia. For a number of reasons, in my judgment, there is no way that the current so-called stabilization force can leave Bosnia at the end of 18 months with any other result but that the same situation will return to Bosnia as previously existed there.

Conclusion No. 1: There will need to be some form of an outside armed force to help maintain the stabilized situation which we are now creating in Bosnia.

But, No. 2, we should not have our ground forces in Bosnia at the end of 18 months. Europe should take a greater responsibility, and there is a new development inside of NATO which makes that a possibility.

There is a new development inside of NATO which is very fortuitous, which makes it possible for Europe to take over the leadership of any follow-on force after 18 months. That fortuitous development is that NATO is developing a European security and defense identity within the alliance which will permit European NATO nations, with NATO consent, to carry out operations under the political control and strategic direction of the western European Union, using NATO assets and NATO capabilities. That European initiative inside of NATO is the appropriate follow-on force after this 18-month period is over, should a follow-on force be necessary. In my judgment, at least, it will be.

I was pleased that Senator Cohen shared my view that U.S. combat forces should not remain on the ground in Bosnia for more than 18 more months, and that he shared my optimism that it was at least possible that this new European security and defense initiative would be the right follow-on force in Bosnia should an outside armed force continue to be necessary.

Although Senator Cohen has served on the Armed Services Committee for the past 18 years, the committee carried out the same thorough review of this nomination that we do for all nominations that come before the committee. We carefully reviewed his financial disclosure and his responses to the standard committee questionnaire. In late December, the committee submitted an extensive set of policy questions to Senator Cohen. His written answers were made available to all committee members and are part of the committee's written record of this nomination. Earlier today, the committee conducted a lengthy hearing with the nominee and examined his views on the full range of national security issues facing the United States.

Mr. President, based on the committee's review of this nomination, and based on my own experience working with Senator Cohen over the past 18 years, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, how much time do I have on my side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina has 18 minutes.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I now yield 10 minutes to the able Senator from Maine, Senator SNOWE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator SNOWE is recognized.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for yielding me this time this afternoon.

Mr. President, today the Senate will have the opportunity to vote on the confirmation of America's next Secretary of Defense.

This is, of course, a position of tremendous importance and responsibility—particularly as we look toward a new millennium and the national security challenges that it will present. These challenges will be many: restructuring our forces, modernizing our defense, reconciling our defense needs with the realities of our budget, our ongoing interests in the Mideast and Bosnia, and the potential for other conflicts yet unknown. And as always, the world will be looking to us—the greatest democracy on Earth—for strong and just leadership.

So the individual who will hold this office must be of the highest moral and intellectual fiber. This is why I am pleased and honored to rise today in strong support of the nomination of William S. Cohen to be our next Secretary of Defense.

While there are now Senators in this Chamber who have never served with Bill, I feel confident in saying that every one of them is nonetheless familiar with his contributions to this institution.

And yet, as we approach the time when we will confirm Bill Cohen as Secretary of Defense, I feel compelled to share with you my thoughts about Bill as a person, as a Senator, and as a leader.

It seemed just yesterday that I stood on this very floor to pay tribute and respect to a friend and colleague who was bidding farewell to the institution he had served so well for 18 years. I talked about Bill Cohen the man, and how he helped perpetuate the Senate's claim as the greatest deliberative body on Earth. And I talked about how he made Maine and the Nation proud. Little did I know—but little am I surprised—that I would soon stand before you speaking of how the country has lost a Senator but soon will gain an outstanding Secretary of Defense.

It has been said that the world is divided into those who want to become someone, and those who want to accomplish something. The irony is that in setting out to accomplish something, Bill Cohen has also become someone—someone we admire, someone we respect, and someone who can be entrusted with one of the toughest and most demanding jobs in the world.

Like the historic Maine lighthouses that dot Maine's coastline, Bill's

record has been a beacon of light. His vision and resolve stood fast against the buffeting winds of political change. In a volatile and stormy climate, Bill Cohen and his rich experience in public service helped guide us to calmer waters. But while skillful in getting things done, politics is not what moves Bill. Principles and ideas are what Bill Cohen is really about.

That's why Bill became the standard-bearer for modern Maine politics from his first days in public service.

Born and raised in Bangor, where his parents ran a bakery, he graduated from Bowdoin College and from Boston University Law School 3 years later. After practicing law in Bangor for several years, Bill was elected to the Bangor City Council in 1969 and then served as mayor of Bangor. It was clear early on that he would have a distinguished career in public service.

In 1972, he was elected to the House from Maine's Second Congressional District and faced the toughest challenge of his fledgling tenure in Congress.

In the stormy sea of the Watergate scandal, while America was suffering a crisis of confidence, Bill Cohen charted a course straight through the heart of the storm as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, which was considering Articles of Impeachment against a President of the United States. A freshman, Bill was already a man of conscience and courage—someone who was willing to make the tough calls and risk his political future for the sake of truth and America's honor. And these values ultimately launched him here—to the U.S. Senate.

Back in our home State of Maine, people believe the ultimate measure of a person is how close they remain to their principles precisely when it is most difficult to do so.

It is a tradition that Margaret Chase Smith and Edmund Muskie followed in their personal and political lives and consistent with the ideals of Maine. Bill Cohen followed in their footsteps.

Throughout Bill's career, Maine and America have come to know that they can count on Bill to approach issues with thoughtfulness and reason. And Senators on both sides of the aisle developed a tremendous respect for the virtues Bill brought to this body because, above all, Bill Cohen voted his mind and his conscience. And that is what Americans want in their leaders. He has the intellect, the integrity, and the strength to know the right thing to do and the right way to do it. And he is a leader who believes in his solemn responsibility not simply to echo conventional wisdom but to seriously deliberate on the issues of the day.

This is the kind of person we need at the helm of the most powerful defense force in world history. We need someone with a firm grasp of history and a solid vision for the future, someone with both experience and a track record that engenders unflagging trust. Mr. President, Bill Cohen is such a person.

The defense of our Nation is one of the most sacred responsibilities of the Federal Government. "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is a meaningless concept unless we have the desire and the ability to defend those rights against those who would subvert them. We entrust the person who oversees our Armed Forces with nothing less than the defense of the Constitution and the greatest democracy the world has ever known. That is a tall order, but it is without reservation that I will put my full faith and trust in Bill Cohen to be that person.

As we all know, Bill is a respected and expert voice on intelligence and national security issues. As chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, he played a leadership role in defense policy at a critical time in our Nation's history, through some of the most trying days of the cold war and the challenging moments thereafter. Bill authored the nuclear arms build-down proposal which became the United States position in negotiations with the Soviet Union. He forged a bipartisan compromise on an antiballistic-missile policy, and his unwavering commitment to a strong national defense helped lay the groundwork for the fall of the Soviet empire and the end to the cold war.

Closer to home, Bill was instrumental in bringing about significant reforms of the Defense Department, including reorganizing the Pentagon and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be more effective and prepared for combat situations and streamlining acquisition policies to ensure cost efficiency. His legislation also created a special operations antiterrorism unit designed to counter this growing scourge.

While serving on the Armed Services Committee, Bill was visionary in reshaping our military forces to be responsive to the post-cold-war threats that we face globally as well as sizing and equipping forces to carry out our national security policy. Bill has also been a leader in shaping our policy and forces to meet the future challenges we will face in the 21st century.

Bill Cohen also put forward a detailed proposal for reorienting our defense structure in the nineties in a way that would reduce the burden on the Federal budget and recognize changes in the threats facing the United States. It called for sacrificing conventional forces and programs primarily designed to defeat Soviet aggression in Europe in favor of those, such as power projection forces and sealift, that will be needed to meet the variety of challenges the United States is likely to face in our changed global arena.

It is precisely this kind of responsible, visionary leadership that will be required for the next Secretary of Defense, so I can think of no finer nominee than Bill Cohen to lead and prepare the Department of Defense for this coming century. I commend President Clinton for his bold and wise and

thoughtful selection of Bill Cohen to be our next Secretary of Defense, and I am thankful that Bill Cohen has decided to continue his commitment to public service.

Bill Cohen brings to the Pentagon not just a sense of bipartisanship. He also brings to the Cabinet expertise in working with Congress. And I expect we are going to be hearing a lot from Bill because he is familiar with this end of Pennsylvania Avenue. He knows that to be an effective Secretary of Defense one must have a strong and trustworthy relationship with the U.S. Congress.

Mr. President, my fellow colleagues, the world today is much different than the world of even 10 years ago. The Berlin wall has now been relegated to its rightful place—our museums. The Soviet Union is no more. And young Americans no longer go to sleep fearing that morning may never come. But let us make no mistake. The world is still a volatile and dangerous place, and that is why we need a person of Bill Cohen's caliber standing watch, willing to fight, willing to stand up for his principles, willing to take the time to do what he believes is right.

These are some of the qualities that Bill Cohen will bring to the Pentagon, and so I urge you to join with me in proudly casting your vote to confirm President Clinton's nomination of William S. Cohen to be the next Secretary of Defense for the United States of America.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Who yields time?

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I now yield 2 minutes to the able Senator from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Chair and I thank the Senator from South Carolina.

I support Senator Bill Cohen, now Secretary of Defense-designate Bill Cohen, because I believe he believes in a strong national defense, and he will fight to make sure that commitment remains true. He believes that the President should consult with Congress before deploying American troops into harm's way. He believes that mistakes have been made in Bosnia, and I think he will keep his word when he gives it to Congress and to the American people regarding our role and the clear mission that must be stated in Bosnia. He believes that we should move into the expansion of NATO very carefully, understanding that this is a mutual defense pact, and that we want to always keep our treaty obligations and therefore we must be very careful as we give them to make sure that we are covered.

Bill Cohen believes in privatization so that we will be able to maximize the use of our defense dollars for the readiness of our forces, the greatest forces on the face of the Earth today.

I am pleased to support the nomination of Bill Cohen, and I do wish to commend the President for making this kind of bold move because I think he has heard many of the things Senator Cohen has said over the past few years about the role of defense, about the role of our military in this great country, and I hope the President will listen as we move forward together in a bipartisan way to the good advice I know Bill Cohen will give him regarding the issues that are going to be before us. We cannot go separately when we are talking about the troops and the strength of our American Armed Forces.

So I do support this nomination, and I have every confidence that Bill Cohen will lead us into a strong national defense and also for America to keep all of its treaty obligations and to make sure that we have the missile defense technology to protect us and our shores and our troops when they are in the field.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it is a tremendous honor to be able to cast my second vote as a U.S. Senator to confirm my friend and mentor, Senator Bill Cohen, as this Nation's Secretary of Defense.

In describing the characteristics that make Senator Cohen so well qualified for this job, it would be presumptuous and unnecessary for me to detail his expertise in defense matters to his former colleagues in the Senate. Most of you have worked closely with him on defense issues for many years, and all of you are certainly aware of the depth of his knowledge and experience in this arena. Simply put, Bill Cohen's understanding of the complexities of defense policy is unassailable.

But I do want to attest personally to Bill Cohen's integrity and character, and on that basis there is simply no one more qualified for this enormous responsibility. Bill Cohen embodies the patriotism, the thoughtfulness, the steadfastness, and the intellect that the task of overseeing our Nation's security requires. He brings to the job a fierce dedication to his principles, a level-headed ability to never make a rash or uninformed decision, and the desire to make the Nation's defense stronger while at the same time making it more effective and more efficient.

Most important of all, Bill Cohen will never put Americans troops at risk unnecessarily. In every decision involving the deployment of our men and women in uniform, he will see the faces of our troops, not just the statistics and logistics. He will bring to the Pentagon the reasoned, thoughtful approach that matters as weighty as war and peace require.

I have known Bill Cohen for more than 24 years. I first met him when he was running for Congress in 1972, seeking the seat representing Maine's Second District. He was walking more

than 600 miles across the sprawling district, introducing himself to the voters. I volunteered to drive the campaign car as he criss-crossed the roads of northern Maine. I was inspired by his determination to meet the people whom he wanted to serve in Washington and by his sincere interest in their hopes and fears.

I was also impressed then, as I am now, by his commitment to public service, to doing what was best for the people he represented. Over the years, I saw countless examples of that commitment, whether he was representing the people of the Second District as a House Member, or the people of the whole State as a Senator. Now I have no doubt that he will bring the same dedication for public service to a job at the highest levels of public service, one that answers to the largest constituency of all—the Nation.

In the more than two decades since I first met Bill Cohen, he has been my inspiration, my guide, and my friend. It gives me great pride to be able to be here today to endorse his nomination. I am delighted that the President has made such an outstanding nomination for such a critical Cabinet post. This morning I testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee to urge its prompt and favorable consideration of Bill Cohen's nomination. I am pleased that the committee was able to act so quickly to bring this outstanding nomination to the Senate floor. And I know my colleagues will join me in unanimously approving Bill Cohen's nomination.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to wholeheartedly support the nomination of former Senator Bill Cohen to be Secretary of Defense. Senator Cohen will be taking on a great responsibility in carrying out his duties as Secretary of Defense. When confirmed, he will be providing the President with essential advice about planning for the defense of our Nation and in making sure that America's finest men and women have all of the assets they require to carry out their mission. I am pleased that the President has chosen Senator Cohen for this position. The vast experience and knowledge he gained as a distinguished member of the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, and this body, will serve the President and the Nation well. He is highly qualified for this important position.

I have worked with Senator Cohen on many issues and have always found him to be knowledgeable, thoughtful, and a constructive consensus builder. He has demonstrated an ability to think issues through carefully and thoroughly. His record on critical defense matters during his tenure in the Senate speaks for itself. He has demonstrated that he is able to analyze the critical issues and make decisions based upon what his conscience tells him is that right thing to do for the country.

During this time of severe budget constraints I know that he will be able

to help the President align budgets with priorities. Fundamental questions will have to be answered as we prepare our military for the future wars they will have to fight. The world is still a dangerous place. The recent missions the Department has undertaken are proof of that fact. As we move into the 21st century, and as the United States becomes more involved in crisis spots around the world, Senator Cohen's challenge will be help ensure that our Armed Forces remain the best trained, best equipped fighting force in the world. This is no small task, but he has consistently supported these objectives in his position as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He played an important role in calling for the Quadrennial Defense Review, has shown keen insights into the importance of weapons modernization, and has been a stalwart supporter calling for ballistic missile defenses.

I have been very pleased to know many Secretary's of Defense in my 24 years in the Senate, but I must say that I have been especially proud to know Secretary Designate Cohen. We began our legislative careers in 1973. He first started in the House of Representatives, but I watched his career develop there and then in the Senate where he won the respect of his colleagues and became a giant here on Defense and Intelligence issues.

I have enormous respect for Secretary of Defense Designate Cohen. I believe his confirmation will be good for the country. I think it is fair to say that he enjoys the respect of every Member of this body. I look forward to working with Senator Cohen in his new position as Secretary of Defense. I think the President has made an excellent choice in nominating him. The people of Maine can be truly proud of his accomplishments, as I am proud to support his nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of William Cohen to be Secretary of Defense. After watching the Armed Services Committee hearings on his nomination I am not sure whether the Senate is voting in confirmation or coronation of my friend from Maine.

I can certainly understand how the committee provided such overwhelming support for this nomination. I have enjoyed working with Bill Cohen on a wide range of issues. He and I have served together on the Intelligence Committee and we have traveled together on arms control delegations. I am gratified by the support he has lent to efforts I have brought before the Senate to limit the export and use of land mines. He has that unique New England philosophy, increasingly rare these days, of working in a bipartisan fashion to build support for legislative initiatives for the good of the country. There will be a void in the Senate without him but the nation is fortunate to have his leadership on defense issues.

There are two distinct qualities about Bill Cohen that I am confident

will serve him well as Secretary of Defense. As all of us who have had the honor to serve with him know, Bill Cohen is his own individual. He is not afraid to stand up for what he believes is best for the Nation. He also possesses one of the most formidable intellects that I have worked with in my 22 years in the Senate. I know that these qualities will serve him well as he guides the Department of Defense and advises the President in the coming years.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to speak today in support of President Clinton's nomination of former Senator William Cohen as Secretary of Defense. I truly believe that Senator Cohen has an extraordinary grasp of all defense matters, especially issues of concern to the Navy, and will be an asset as Secretary of Defense.

I have always found Senator Cohen to be a fair and thoughtful public servant who takes the time to understand all issues. In fact, I am happy to say that when Senator Cohen speaks on matters of our national defense and foreign policy, I turn up the volume on my television so that I can catch every word.

Since coming to the Senate, I have stressed the need to be more bipartisan in all that we do. This is especially true when considering what is necessary for our Nation's security. I am convinced that with the Senator's nomination as Secretary of Defense our ability to work together as Democrats and Republicans will be enhanced as will Congress' ability to work with the executive branch. The value of this cooperation cannot be underestimated.

I am also pleased that Secretary-designate Cohen has a keen understanding of international security issues across the board. He is particularly knowledgeable about the Asia-Pacific region and has traveled there many times. Secretary-designate Cohen supports continuing Secretary Perry's strong policy of engagement with China, including extensive military-to-military contacts. This kind of one-on-one relationship with our Asian counterparts is vital to the continued progress in our foreign policy relationship. We, however, must continue to maintain a strong military presence in the Pacific to protect our interests. I am convinced that Senator Cohen will continue to support this effort during his tenure as Secretary of Defense.

Eliminating sexual harassment and all forms of discrimination in our Armed Forces is another issue to which I know the Secretary-designate will dedicate his efforts. He was a leader during the scourge of Tailhook and I am confident that he will continue to monitor the Army's investigations into sexual harassment and assault inside its ranks.

Finally, I know that the Secretary-designate and I will have the opportunity to discuss and to work on those matter on which we do not see eye to eye. As a Senator, Secretary-designate Cohen had differing views on the ad-

ministration's current Department of Defense privatization efforts. I look forward to working with him as we continue to explore the best ways to preserve the readiness needs of our military and the most cost-effective means to support our military's depot maintenance activities. I am positive that we will have, as we have always had, the ability to discuss these differences openly and honestly.

In closing, I was pleased to hear that Senator Cohen mentioned the problem of access to bombmaking information on the Internet during his testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee today. This is a widespread problem for which I have been seeking a solution and I am pleased that the Secretary-designate understands its gravity.

I am happy to give my support for the nomination of former Senator William Cohen to the office of Secretary of Defense. I am positive he will be an asset to the Clinton administration and to our Nation as a whole.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am very pleased to vote for Senator Bill Cohen's confirmation to serve as Secretary of Defense. We are all very familiar with Senator Cohen's experience and commitment to the Nation's defense as a member of the Armed Services Committee and I am confident he will put those qualities to good use in leading the Department of Defense into the next century.

In the 8 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Department has guided our Armed Forces through a challenging and often painful downsizing, while maintaining the preeminent position of our forces as the world's strongest, best led, best trained, and finest performing military. And we have done so while making major progress toward balancing the budget.

Senator Cohen is eminently qualified to carry on these important responsibilities.

We continue to face major challenges in maintaining a sound defense strategy to forthcoming years in the post-cold-war world.

Our nuclear arsenal and that of the four other nuclear powers are larger and are operated on higher alerts than the threats now justify. The threat from terrorists who seek to obtain and use weapons of mass destruction demands more of our attention and resources.

The Pentagon is embarking on a quadrennial defense review to determine the proper balance of size, structure, and funding to keep our forces equipped, trained, and ready. We all look forward to working with Senator Cohen and the President to deal with these critical issues for our national security.

Another vital challenge is to ensure that our military personnel have the quality of life to which their service entitles them. Health care, child care, and adequate housing are all initiatives on which the committee works closely with the Department, and I

know these will continue to be priorities for the Pentagon under Secretary Cohen's leadership as well.

Finally, it was a special privilege for me to work with Senator Cohen on the Seapower Subcommittee for many years on issues of special importance to the Navy and Marine Corps. I commend him on his nomination and I look forward to continuing to deal with him on safeguarding our national defense.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] asked me to submit his statement in support of William Cohen for Secretary of Defense. As with the earlier vote on the nomination of Madeleine Albright to be Secretary of State, he is necessarily absent for this vote because of responsibilities he has in leading a trade mission from his State of West Virginia to Asia. He regrets not being here to cast his own vote for his former colleague, Senator Cohen, and asks that his support for this outstanding nominee be noted.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am submitting this statement to express my support for the nomination of my former colleague, William Cohen, to be the Secretary of Defense of the United States of America. Unfortunately, as with today's earlier vote for Madeleine Albright to be Secretary of State, I am necessarily absent from the Senate, and am unable to cast my vote for Senator Cohen. Again, because of plans that had to be scheduled long ago, I am presently leading a group of more than 30 West Virginians on a trade mission to Japan and Taiwan that is called Project Harvest II.

I personally regret, however, that I am missing a chance to vote on the nomination of William Cohen. Senator Cohen and I served together in the Senate for twelve years, and in that time he distinguished himself as a serious legislator with a keen intellect who continually transcended party boundaries to build bridges and advance America's national interests.

The challenges facing Senator Cohen today are no less daunting than those faced by Secretaries of Defense in times of war and cold war. The United States stands today as the only military superpower in the world. That brings with it great responsibility to lead in all corners of the globe. Bill Cohen is uniquely talented to take on these challenges, and like my colleagues I applaud him for agreeing to take on this challenge, and the President for nominating him. •

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the Honorable William S. Cohen was a great Senator and I am confident that he will carry on his outstanding record in public service as Secretary of Defense.

I compliment President Clinton both for his bipartisanship for nominating Bill Cohen and for his wisdom in selecting this man of unique ability and integrity.

I have worked closely with Bill Cohen for the past 16 years and have found him to be brilliant, tenacious, honest, and hardworking. If Bill Cohen finds all the others in a Cabinet meeting about to make an erroneous decision, I am confident he will be smart enough and strong enough to persuade them to the correct course.

I look forward to working with Secretary Cohen on many matters in the future.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I enthusiastically support the nomination of our colleague Senator Bill Cohen to be Secretary of Defense.

I salute President Clinton for reaching out beyond party lines. I salute Bill Cohen for being ready to join the Democratic Administration. They both know that when it comes to the national defense of our country—we have no party interest—just national interest.

Senator Cohen has shown that he cares deeply about the national interest—and that means a lot more to him than party politics. He has proven this time and time again, not just on national security issues but when he worked on behalf of senior citizens, when he sought to reach a consensus on health care reform, when he supported affirmative action and when he fought for lobbying reform. His is a voice of independence, integrity, and moderation.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, he was one of the Senate's most articulate voices for a strong and efficient national defense. He cares deeply about the men and women of our Armed Forces. He has long fought to make sure that while we downsize our military—we do not downgrade our military.

Mr. President, I believe Senator Cohen is the ideal person to lead our Armed Forces into the new century. I am proud to support his nomination, and I look forward to working with him to ensure that we maintain the best equipped, best trained, and most ethical military in the world.

Mr. ROBB. Madam President, in my 8 years of service in the Senate, and in particular during my time on the Armed Services Committee and the Intelligence Committee, I have had the privilege and honor of working with Bill Cohen. His expertise and thoughtfulness, as well as his ability to put the national interests above partisan politics, have made him an invaluable asset to this body. Whether regarding arms controls, missile defense, or acquisition reform, Bill Cohen's independence and reasoned approach have resulted in passage of major pieces of legislation on highly complex and politicized matters. Those same qualities will enable our next Secretary of Defense to guide the Nation through an uncertain future, and to make the many difficult choices we face in reconciling protection of our vital interests overseas with ever-increasing demands on our Federal budget here at home.

Bill Perry has proven himself as one of the most capable Defense Secretaries ever, and Bill Cohen will have a remarkable legacy to follow. But I am confident he shares the same kind of dispassionate, in-depth analytic qualities and measured, even-keeled leadership qualities that will keep America safe well into the 21st century. I wish him much success in his new position, and with that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I yield 3 minutes to the able Senator from Virginia, Senator WARNER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the chairman.

Madam President, President Clinton performed an act of political courage in reaching across the aisle and getting a proven Republican warrior to take on this important post. But that act is matched by the independence and, indeed, the courage that Bill Cohen brings to this office.

For 18 years, it has been my privilege to be seated next to him on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and to travel with him throughout the world.

The hearing today was thorough, the questions were tough, and that is the way Bill Cohen would have wanted it. That is the way the committee dealt with him today. It was not easy. It was a thorough and careful hearing, and I commend the chairman and Senator LEVIN.

In the course of the questioning, by myself and others, I think Senator Cohen made—I do not think, I know he made a commitment to the Congress that he will try to work in this next Clinton administration to improve the consultation between the President and his advisers and the Congress in a timely manner before we commit the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States into harm's way.

On that point, I questioned him about what standard should be employed when U.S. troops are deployed into hostile situations. I drew Senator Cohen's attention to responses given by the Secretary of State-designate Albright at the time of her confirmation hearing on January 8. Ambassador Albright spoke of a series of situations when "our interests and those of our allies may be affected." In those instances, our new Secretary of State would recommend the use of U.S. forces. I felt that we should be more explicit in defining the standard for using U.S. troops in hostile situations. In my view, the men and women of the Armed Forces should know, before they are deployed by the President and the Secretary of Defense, that the mission of these fine troops is in our vital national security interest.

Senator Cohen came close defining the standard that I have applied on this issue—that is, that U.S. vital national security interests must be threatened before we agree to put U.S. troops in harm's way. But he said he wanted to leave room for the use of

United States troops in those instances where there was a potential for a situation to approach a vital national security interest, such as in Bosnia. While he clearly stated that Bosnia was not in the vital national security interests of this country, he pointed out that, by virtue of the intervention of our troops and others, we avoided a situation where the conflict could have spread beyond the borders of Bosnia, thereby creating a situation which would be in the vital security interests of this country and indeed other nations. I will continue to work with my good friend to further tighten his standard regarding the use of U.S. troops.

There were several other issues I explored with our Secretary of Defense-designate during this morning's hearing that I would like to discuss at this time for the benefit of the entire Senate. The first is the critical issue of congressional involvement in international agreements which substantively modify the ABM Treaty. I reminded Senator Cohen that during the last Congress—and, indeed, dating back to 1991—he was my partner in our efforts to provide adequate missile defenses for our troops deployed overseas and to Americans here at home. One issue which has been of paramount concern to many Republican Members of Congress is the Clinton administration's repeated attempts during its negotiations with the Russians on a demarcation agreement to apply the limitations of the ABM Treaty to our shorter range, theater missile defense systems. I was in Moscow in 1972 when the ABM Treaty was signed. I know that the ABM Treaty was never envisioned to restrict our shorter range systems.

Unfortunately, the battle with the administration over the demarcation issue continues. Senator Cohen joined me in 1994 in cosponsoring an amendment to the Fiscal Year 1995 Defense Authorization Act which states that any international agreement which substantively modifies the ABM Treaty must be submitted to the Senate as a treaty. During last year's conference on the Fiscal Year 1997 Defense Authorization Act, National Security Advisor Tony Lake came before the conferees and stated unequivocally that the administration had determined that the demarcation agreement the administration had tentatively concluded with the Russians was indeed a substantive modification of the ABM Treaty. Despite this position, and—in my view—the clear legal requirement that flows from the law enacted in 1994, the Clinton administration refuses to acknowledge that it must submit the final demarcation agreement to the Congress for approval.

To his credit, Senator Cohen reaffirmed his view that agreements which represent substantive modifications to the ABM Treaty must be submitted to the Senate for consideration. I am hopeful that from his new position, he can help us in resolving this

longstanding dispute between the Congress and the Clinton administration.

The final issue I would like to mention concerns the negative impact that the Bosnia operation and other similar contingency operations are having on the overall level of military readiness, and on defense funding levels. I pointed out to Senator Cohen that our troops deployed to such operations as those in Bosnia are distracted from their normal training evolutions which are critical to maintaining their combat readiness. This problem is compounded by the ad hoc way the administration has been funding these contingency operations. As Senator Cohen acknowledged, we will soon be faced with a supplemental budget request of over \$2 billion to fund our continued involvement in Bosnia. That \$2 billion will be taken out of the critical readiness and procurement accounts which are already at dangerously low levels. Senator Cohen recognized the problems I outlined, and agreed to work with the Congress to find solutions. I look forward to that dialog.

Madam President, Bill Cohen will not only be a valuable adviser to the President, but I think to the Cabinet as a whole. His hallmark in the U.S. Senate was to bring disparate factions together and to try to strike a common ground of understanding between the strongest of differing viewpoints. Therefore, in those Cabinet meetings, I anticipate he will take on an added responsibility and role. He will quickly gain the respect, not only of the President, but of his other colleagues.

Lastly, Madam President, might I say, on the question of sexual harassment, he came down with a zero tolerance standard. And that was a message that I think all Americans wanted to hear. I reminded him of the success of the military in handling a very serious drug problem at the time he and I first came to the Senate. That is the benchmark for him to follow in dealing with the sexual harassment problem, as he institutes that zero tolerance policy, which I hope he will succeed in attaining.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I yield myself 3 minutes.

I am honored to stand to support the nomination of our former colleague, Bill Cohen, to be the Secretary of Defense. Being a member of the Armed Services Committee, watching Senator Cohen testify before us this morning, you could not help but be impressed. It was a tour de force—no pun intended here—for our future Secretary of Defense. He was thoughtful, he was well informed, he was strong, and he was, I believe, ready to innovate. I think you could not help but conclude, though much has been made of Senator Cohen's party affiliation, that President Clinton chose Bill Cohen to be our next Secretary of Defense because he was the best person to be our next Sec-

retary of Defense. And, incidentally, he happened to be a Republican.

This, obviously, is serious business and a serious responsibility Secretary-designate Cohen now undertakes, the security of our country, the first responsibility of our Government; the power, along with the Commander in Chief, to put American soldiers in harm's way. I am confident, because all of us know Bill Cohen. In fact, we are in an unusual position, an advantage that we normally do not have when we consider nominees. We know this person. We know his values. We know his balance. We know his strength, and therefore we know how well prepared he is to be the Secretary of Defense.

He comes in at a time when America is the unchallenged, strongest nation in the world. Yet, to remain that way, not just for today and tomorrow but for the decades ahead, we must continue to innovate and lead and make tough decisions. Just like America's strongest companies who, after they have completed years in which they have made record profits, their CEO's come back and look for ways to innovate to make sure they will stay successful. That is exactly what Secretary-designate Cohen must, and I am sure will, do as our next Secretary of Defense. This morning he strongly supported the quadrennial defense review and national defense panel as aids to him and us in carrying out that responsibility.

Madam President, let me conclude simply by saying that this new assignment will test Senator Cohen's strength, his foresight, and his courage. I am absolutely convinced that he is ready to pass those tests and serve our Nation brilliantly.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. THURMOND. Madam President, how much time do we have left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 5 minutes remaining on both sides.

Mr. THURMOND. Five minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On both sides.

Mr. THURMOND. I yield 3 minutes to the able Senator from Oklahoma.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I am pleased to share my feelings on a bipartisan basis for the man who is probably the best qualified individual going into the job of Secretary of Defense in a very difficult time in this Nation's history. I will single out four areas where he has demonstrated, in my opinion, a type of courage that many do not have, not to be encumbered by partisan politics or by politics in general, but to be concerned only with protecting this Nation from attack from outside.

The first area is, under the BRAC Commission, he has made the statement in the past that the burden of BRAC, the Base Realignment And Closure Commission, was to reduce the excess capacity and move that excess capacity into consolidated functions. I have no doubt in my mind but he will

do this and keep that system free from political interference.

The second area is we really cannot afford in this Nation to have more defense cuts than we have already cut. I read a quote this morning out of a new book by Caspar Weinberger called "The Next War."

Even to think about, much less propose, further cutting our Armed Forces, betrays a clear lack of real world thinking bordering on denial and delusion.

I believe Bill Cohen understands this.

The third area is the practice of sending our troops into areas where we do not have vital strategic interests at stake. This is something we have had a chance to talk about. We stood on the floor with Bill Cohen as a U.S. Senator, and he expressed himself very clearly that we not dilute our very scarce military assets by sending our troops to places that are not strategic, vital security interests of the United States.

Very closely associated with that is I am hoping we are going to be able to get away from a problem we have had for quite some time, and that is the administration coming in, encumbering us, putting our troops into areas such as Bosnia and approximating what it will cost, which was supposed to cost somewhere between \$1.5 and \$2 billion and now we are finding out it is going to be closer to \$6 billion, \$6.5 billion. This is in a way disenfranchising the U.S. Senate. We should be in on that decision, and I have every confidence we will be in on those decisions from this point forward.

Then the last area is one I have been very much concerned with, and that is our need for a sophisticated theater missile defense system and a national missile defense system. I have stood on this floor and shared thoughts with Senator Bill Cohen concerning this problem. This morning during the confirmation hearings I was just delighted to hear Senator Cohen make his statement as he characterized the proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction to be the gravest problem facing the world today.

I am looking forward to voting for his confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. LEVIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield to the distinguished Senator from West Virginia 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I compliment the Presiding Officer, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, who presides over this body at this moment with a degree of dignity and skill and efficiency that is so rare as a day in June.

I strongly support the nomination of Senator Bill Cohen to be our next Secretary of Defense. He is highly qualified for this important position from the perspective of the long, creative, and intense years he has studied and

put into effect his ideas regarding a strong defense from the position of his membership on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I have worked with Senator Cohen on many issues of war and peace, of foreign policy, national security actions and have always found him to be knowledgeable, thoughtful, with excellent insight and a distinct lack of partisanship, and always with an unusual dose of excellent judgment and innovation.

He has always attempted to build consensus across the aisle on vital defense matters, and I have had this experience in working with him when I served as the Democratic leader and in the context of our membership together on the Armed Services Committee.

I commend President Clinton for submitting this outstanding—truly outstanding—nomination. I suggest that the nomination reflects highly on both the Senator and the President. It highlights the need for bipartisan national security decisionmaking, and I feel that it will be constructive in taking politics out of defense budgeting and defense policy.

It is an act of political courage on the part of the President, and it is matched by the independence of judgment and courage on the part of Bill Cohen over the years. Senator Cohen has demonstrated an ability to think a problem through carefully and clearly and reach consistently wise and independent judgments.

In this regard, I commend his comment in the committee's confirmation hearing today that there should be an end to our Bosnia deployment within the near term and that our European allies need to finally step up to the plate and assume whatever further military peace-enforcing responsibilities remain at the end of that period.

I know that Senator Cohen is a strong advocate of regular substantive consultations between the administration and the Congress on critical defense matters, and in particular on the question of the deployment of American Armed Forces into harm's way. I know that he urged President Bush to come to Congress on the matter of deploying our forces to Saudi Arabia in preparation to remove Iraq's forces from Kuwait. He has indicated that it is not sufficient for an administration to go only to the United Nations for such approval, and he supports his argument with both constitutional and practical reasons.

It is far sounder to deploy forces when an adversary knows that a national decision in the United States has been taken which has been validated by the people's representatives. America's credibility is stronger under such circumstances, and we are more likely to sustain a difficult operation and to prevail.

The nomination of Bill Cohen for Secretary of Defense is an unusually good one. I look forward to working

closely with Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen on the very weighty and diverse responsibilities that come with that high and critical office.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THURMOND. Madam President, how much time do we have left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 2 minutes for the Senator from South Carolina and 1 minute for the Senator from Michigan.

Mr. THURMOND. I now yield 1 minute to the able Senator from New Hampshire, Senator Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. BOB SMITH. I thank the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee very much and also thank you, Madam President. It isn't often you get the opportunity to preside over your predecessor's new job. So it is a great honor. You will learn when Senator BYRD gives out compliments, he means them. So I think you should take it in that vein.

I am very honored and pleased and proud to support the nomination of Bill Cohen, with whom I have worked on the Armed Services Committee for the past 6 years on a number of issues. I compliment the President of the United States for having the courage to make a bipartisan selection. I don't think he could have picked a better one.

If you want to bridge the gap, if you will, that sometimes occurs between those of us on the Republican side on defense matters and the administration, I think if anybody can do it, Bill Cohen can do it. He is very knowledgeable, and I think one of the things that adds a different, perhaps a unique, dimension to Bill Cohen as Secretary of Defense is his experience in foreign policy.

I have been on some trips with him around the world, as many of my colleagues have, and he is very knowledgeable on Europe and NATO. His knowledge of the world is pretty well unequalled. I am proud to support his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. BIDEN addressed the Chair.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 10 seconds to the Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, the only thing I can say in 10 seconds is it is an inspired choice of a great man at the right time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. CONRAD addressed the Chair.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, to Senator CONRAD I yield 10 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I was in the centrist coalition with Senator Cohen. I have enormously high regard for his integrity, his honesty, and his ability to work with others. A superb choice.

Mr. THURMOND. Madam President, I now yield a half-minute to the able

Senator from Rhode Island, Senator CHAFEE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I join in the congratulations both to the President, for having chosen Bill Cohen, and Bill Cohen, for making himself available. Bill Cohen is one of the really great Senators with whom I have had the privilege of serving in this body.

As the Senator from North Dakota mentioned, he and I and others were part of a centrist coalition that was bipartisan, which reached across the aisle. We are going to see Bill Cohen conduct his office in the same fashion. It is going to be an office that will provide for all Americans.

It is with great pleasure that I second the nomination of Bill Cohen for Secretary of Defense.

Mr. THURMOND. Madam President, I now yield the remainder of the time to the able Senator from Idaho, Senator KEMPTHORNE.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Madam President, I thank the Senator from South Carolina very much.

I enthusiastically support the nomination of Bill Cohen for Secretary of Defense and commend the President for his decision. One of the encouraging things Bill Cohen said today, among all the other impressive things he said, was his commitment to the men and women in uniform.

We have the best fighting force in the world, but you have to take care of them. So the quality of life issues that are so important to those men and women, whether they are four-star generals or new privates or midshipmen coming in, we need to take care of them, and we have a Secretary of Defense who will continue what Bill Perry was doing, and that is improving the life of our men and women.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired. The Senator from Michigan has 4 seconds.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, this morning, there were three wonderful introductions of Senator Cohen to the Armed Services Committee. The Presiding Officer, Senator SNOWE, and Senator MCCAIN made really stirring introductions of our former colleague, Senator Cohen. Not only were they wonderful, but it is a wonderful fact, indeed, that the person who is presiding over the Senate at this moment when he will be confirmed—I am sure overwhelmingly if not unanimously—is not only someone who is the successor to Senator Cohen, but someone who has Senator Cohen still no doubt as a mentor and was, indeed, on Senator Cohen's staff where she served so brilliantly as a subcommittee staff director on a subcommittee that I also chaired and was ranking member.

So I want to congratulate the Presiding Officer for being where she is at this moment. It must be a treat, indeed, for her to be sitting there.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of William S. Cohen, of Maine, to be Secretary of Defense? On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Ex.]

YEAS—99

Abraham	Faircloth	Lieberman
Akaka	Feingold	Lott
Allard	Feinstein	Lugar
Ashcroft	Ford	Mack
Baucus	Frist	McCain
Bennett	Glenn	McConnell
Biden	Gorton	Mikulski
Bingaman	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Bond	Gramm	Moynihan
Boxer	Grams	Murkowski
Breaux	Grassley	Murray
Brownback	Gregg	Nickles
Bryan	Hagel	Reed
Bumpers	Harkin	Reid
Burns	Hatch	Robb
Byrd	Helms	Roberts
Campbell	Hollings	Roth
Chafee	Hutchinson	Santorum
Cleland	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Inouye	Shelby
Collins	Jeffords	Smith Bob
Conrad	Johnson	Smith Gordon H
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Snowe
Craig	Kennedy	Specter
D'Amato	Kerrey	Stevens
Daschle	Kerry	Thomas
DeWine	Kohl	Thompson
Dodd	Kyl	Thurmond
Domenici	Landrieu	Torricelli
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Warner
Durbin	Leahy	Wellstone
Enzi	Levin	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. THURMOND. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LOTT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the President be immediately notified that the Senate has given its consent to the nomination and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak

for up to 10 minutes each, noting that a number of Senators had hoped to speak before the vote on behalf of this nominee's confirmation. I know a few would like to get their remarks in the RECORD at this point. Others will want to introduce bills and speak on their legislation.

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

Mr. GLENN. Reserving the right to object, I would like to have 25 minutes after the statements on Senator Cohen appear, if that is all right.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I amend that consent to allow the Senator from Ohio to take 25 minutes, with the understanding that we have a few Senators who would like to speak first for not more than 10 minutes on behalf of this nomination.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I note to those Senators who may not have been told, there are no votes tomorrow or votes on Friday. I ask the leader if he can clarify that.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, we are pleased to announce that there will be no further votes today. The Senate will be in session tomorrow, Thursday, January 23, for a period of morning business, to continue the opportunity for Senators to offer bills and make statements on behalf of those bills.

The Senate then is expected to recess over until Monday, the 27th, for a pro forma session only. No business will be transacted during Monday's session. The next time the Senate will be in session to conduct business will be on Tuesday, January 28, when we hope and expect that we will have another nomination ready to be voted on. It hasn't been completed yet, but we hope to continue next week with confirmation votes. After meeting with the Democratic leader, we will begin to also notify Members as to when we hope bills will be coming up and will be ready for vote.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I thank the majority leader for his comments with regard to the schedule and also for his cooperation in moving these two nominations as quickly as we have.

I think the widespread support for both nominees is a real indication of the kind of support both colleagues have, and also a real indication of the kind of leadership demonstrated on the Republican side of the aisle when it comes to these nominations. This is in keeping with the comments made earlier by the majority leader. I appreciate his cooperation very much.

I yield to Senator ROBB at this time and reserve my right to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] is recognized.

Mr. ROBB. Madam President, I will submit for the RECORD a statement re-

lating to the nomination and confirmation of both now Secretary Madeleine Albright and now Secretary Bill Cohen. I was unable to get to the floor during those particular periods when their virtues were being extolled at some length. I have enormous respect for them individually, as all of our colleagues do.

I salute the leadership on both sides of the aisle for moving these nominations through expeditiously. I believe they are both committed to a strong national defense and assertive foreign policy. I think they will work well together as a team and with the President. I think their respective quick confirmations are good for the country. I commend all of those who helped to make that possible, including my distinguished senior Senator from Virginia and the distinguished majority leader, as well as the minority leader, for what they have done.

CONFIRMATION OF MADELEINE ALBRIGHT TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the distinguished choice of Madeleine Albright to be Secretary of State. Ambassador Albright has served the country with distinction over a 20-year period. She brings the requisite skills, knowledge, and experience to one of the most demanding jobs in Government, and I am confident that she will help President Clinton continue our leadership of the community of nations.

During her confirmation hearing, Ambassador Albright conveyed to me a strong sense of how the United States must act and lead in addressing problems around the world where our interests and values are at stake. She demonstrated a keen understanding of how diplomacy and force work together to advance our foreign policy goals.

Ambassador Albright stated to the committee that "force, and the credible possibility of its use, are essential to defend our vital interests and to keep America safe. But force alone can be a blunt instrument, and there are many problems it cannot solve. To be effective, force and diplomacy must complement and reinforce each other."

I believe we need to tangibly demonstrate our commitment to peace and stability, in both manpower and structure, as we forge a new security order in Europe and serve as a balancing wheel in Asia. American leadership abroad will depend on the President and his national security team having the spine to lead our allies against inimical forces, including rogue nations, terrorist elements, and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

In that regard, President Clinton has chosen well in Madeleine Albright. She has a direct, no nonsense style that suits these times well, and will invigorate our foreign policy agenda. I look forward to joining hands with her as