

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

the administration continues its efforts to promote freedom, peace, and security abroad.

CONFIRMATION OF WILLIAM COHEN TO BE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mr. ROBB. Mr. 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.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

(Disturbance in the galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sergeant at Arms will restore order in the galleries.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CABINET MEMBERS—SECRETARY MADELEINE ALBRIGHT AND SECRETARY WILLIAM COHEN

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I know there are a number of colleagues who wish to be recognized, and I will be very brief. I wanted to accommodate all of those in the short timeframe that we had prior to the votes, so I withheld comment at that time.

I congratulate both of our new members of the Cabinet on the strong support they received through the votes taken this afternoon. In the case of Madeleine Albright, I have had the opportunity to inform her of the Senate's vote and to personally congratulate her. Let me say how pleased I am with the overwhelming sentiment expressed by the Senate on both sides of the aisle.

Madeleine Albright is unquestionably qualified to be Secretary of State. She is one of our best foreign policy minds, particularly given the extraordinary

experience she has had in so many roles in her past. As a professor at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service, Ambassador to the United Nations, serving as a counselor to the President on foreign policy, Madeleine Albright, as much as anybody else, has had the opportunity to be in the forefront of foreign policy in this administration. This vote, obviously, was quite historic. Madeleine Albright stands now as the first woman to be confirmed as Secretary of State in our Nation's history. I cannot think of a more appropriate honor to be bestowed on a woman of this caliber and with this degree of credibility. I commend her and commend the administration for nominating her for this most important position.

We stand ready to work with her in all the challenges that she now faces in all parts of the world given the heavy responsibility that she will face her new role as Secretary of State. I hope that we can demonstrate that politics will stop at the water's edge, as it has this afternoon in her confirmation. I look forward to working with her. And, again, let me publicly congratulate her on this historic occasion and on the overwhelming support demonstrated for her confirmation in the vote just taken.

The same could be said of our new Secretary of Defense. From the very outset of his 20-plus year service in Congress, Bill Cohen has demonstrated ability, independence, and extraordinary good judgment on a range of defense and intelligence issues. Through his work on the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, Senator Cohen has become a real giant in the formulation of public policy and someone to whom many of us have gone for counsel, advice, and direction as we have faced many very difficult issues. He has stood on this very Senate floor on many occasions to express himself clearly and unequivocally on the issues confronting this body that require very careful judgment.

I also congratulate Senator Cohen for his clear and very decisive response to a question on the importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention. He made a compelling case for this vital treaty. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle were listening to the comments made by our new Secretary of Defense on the importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention. His record in this Congress, including his testimony before the Armed Services Committee this morning, indicate why Bill Cohen is an extraordinary choice as our new Secretary of Defense. I look forward to working with him. I know that, again, on a bipartisan basis, Bill Cohen begins his tenure as our new Secretary with an appreciation for the friendships that he has created and the standing that he continues to have in our body with colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

A NEW RECORD FOR SENATOR BYRD

Mr. DASCHLE. Finally, let me just say, for just a moment, how pleased I was that the majority leader marked the important new record set by our distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia earlier today.

Senator BYRD, having served 38 years and 10 days in the Senate, has now become the fourth longest-serving Senator in U.S. history behind Senators Hayden, THURMOND, and Stennis.

He is a remarkable legislator. Many of us have called attention to his many, many records in this body now for some time.

I want to be among those to honor him once more, and to call attention to this most historic occasion.

Again, let me congratulate Senator BYRD on this important day, and again call attention to this milestone, and commend the many, many citizens of West Virginia who have shown such good judgment to send ROBERT C. BYRD to the U.S. Senate not once, not twice, but on seven different occasions.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Madam President.

I also want to thank the distinguished Democratic leader for his recognition of Senator BYRD of West Virginia.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, let me thank the Democratic leader for his comments expressing his approval of the fact that we have moved these two very important nominees very quickly through the process. We had indicated to the President that we would try to do that and we would try to act immediately after his inauguration to confirm these nominees. We will continue to work on our nominations that we receive from the President in an expeditious manner. I am sure there will be some that will take a little longer. But we wanted to do these to make clear our good faith and our intentions to work with the President so he could have his Cabinet in place, particularly his foreign policy and national defense people.

So thank you for your comments. We will continue to hopefully work that way.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM COHEN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could just briefly make some comments here about our good friend, the Senator from Maine, Bill Cohen, I know the Presiding Officer feels this way very, very strongly, and I know she is very proud of his confirmation.

I must say that over the course of my tenure in the Congress I have often