

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

been very honored to know Secretaries of Defense. We have had some great ones. Still today I consider many of them personal friends but I have never known one that I have been more proud of than I am today of William Cohen in this new position.

Bill Cohen and I came to Congress together at the same time in 1973. We served in the House together. We served in the Senate together. We didn't always agree. In fact, we fought or disagreed pretty strongly the first couple of years we were in Congress, and it took years to get over that disagreement. But over that period of time in the House and Senate we became close friends, and I grew to admire him and sought out his advice and counsel which I found always very good even when he didn't agree sometimes with what I was trying to do. He gave me advice and help that was invaluable. I will also be thankful for that.

We have much in common. We both represent small coastal States which face similar challenges and interests. He has truly become a great friend to me and to our people in my own home State. He has my respect and my unqualified support as the next Secretary of Defense.

I think also we should take note of the fact that this was a grand gesture by the President. The President indicated that he wanted to have a look at some Republicans for his Cabinet. I was not sure he would do it. I know he considered several. But certainly he made a wise pick here, and it did not go unnoticed by the Republicans that he made this decision. I hope he will take the advice of his new Secretary of Defense. I think he will find it interesting and on occasion challenging and sometimes advice that he will not find easy to accept. But it will be invariably good advice.

Bill Cohen will have his hands full as the new Secretary of Defense. Perhaps the largest challenge of his illustrious career I think now looms before him. I think it is to his credit that he was willing to step aside from his goal of moving into the private sector to come back and to go into this very important, very difficult position.

I have become, in the last few months, increasingly concerned—actually, it has been moving in this direction for a number of years, but I am really to the point of being alarmed about what I see happening with our military, our military leadership in the Pentagon, and what we have been doing to the defense budget of our country. And so we are now reaching the point where we are, I think, developing serious problems in O&M and procurement, and so Senator Cohen is going to have a tremendous job in righting this military monolith that has now reached the point where it has problems and will have growing problems in the future.

I know Bill Cohen has expressed those concerns as a member, a very distinguished senior member, of the Sen-

ate Armed Services Committee. Now he will be in a position to help really do something about that.

Over the last 2½ years, I must say that I think Bill Perry has performed admirably in a very difficult environment. He has often been dealt a weak hand both by insufficient funds to do the job and multiple demands that had to be fulfilled with those limited funds. But he has performed always masterfully, with intellect and integrity, and I think he has artfully managed the Pentagon at a very difficult time. So as he departs, Secretary Perry should be recognized for the fine job he did, and he truly has the gratitude of the Senate and I believe all Americans for his service to the Department of Defense.

As majority leader and as a longtime supporter of a strong national defense, I look forward to working with Bill Cohen as our new Secretary. Many people have voiced surprise that the President would make this decision, but I was not surprised. I knew that once he talked to Bill Cohen, he would have to be impressed, and in fact he was. He recognized him as an expert in defense and security policy. He is bright and capable. He will make an exceptional Secretary of Defense, and I am very proud of his confirmation today.

I yield the floor, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, the Senate rules allow me to just observe that the Presiding Officer, most fittingly, is the junior Senator from Maine at this time we in the Senate are speaking to the nomination of the former distinguished senior Senator from Maine—most appropriate.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Mr. COATS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I, too, join in sending my congratulations to our new Secretary of Defense, Bill Cohen, someone with whom I have had the privilege of serving on the Senate Armed Services Committee now for the past 8 years.

Bill has been a most articulate and most thoughtful member of that committee—obviously, someone whom we have all come to respect, someone of great intellect and experience, arriving at the House in 1973 and spending a significant part of his lifetime serving the people of Maine and serving the people of this country.

He is known as a writer. I think he has published eight books, and so it was always interesting to listen to his statements in the Chamber. They were always well-reasoned. They were always well-researched. They were always thoughtful. They were challenging and provocative. Bill had an independent streak which was a great asset. It allowed him to escape the orthodoxy of the political mantra we sometimes find ourselves repeating without a great deal of forethought.

Yet Bill's challenge, I think, raised issues that we needed to discuss and needed to consider. While I did not always come to the same conclusion he did, I always respected his thoughtfulness and respect for the conclusions he reached.

He now assumes a very difficult assignment. These are not easy times at the Department of Defense, not because we find ourselves engaged in any major conflict but because, for a period of more than a decade, we have been undertaking a very significant reorganization following the demise of the cold war and following our success in the gulf. This is not without consequence, and we are now approaching, I believe, our 12th or 13th consecutive year of reductions in defense spending.

That has taken its toll. It has placed us in a very difficult position. Secretary-designate Cohen this morning in testimony before the Armed Services Committee talked about the world as it is today, the challenges that exist in that world, the threats that we still face, albeit in a different form, and the need to be militarily prepared and to have a strong national security.

We are undertaking a quadrennial review process which is going to force us, as Secretary Cohen said, to make and face some very difficult choices. The declining budget has not allowed us to maintain the kind of capability that many of us feel is necessary if we are going to pursue a two-regional-response strategy. We face some serious questions regarding modernization, balancing that with the need for readiness and the need for adequate compensation for our personnel and adequate benefits for our personnel, as well as the research and development needed to take us into the next century.

All of these difficult choices will now fall to our new Secretary of Defense. He is clearly someone with whom both Republicans and Democrats can work. In fact, we have worked together probably in a more bipartisan way on the Armed Services Committee than any other committee in the Senate. And so we stand ready to work with him in attempting to address some of these fundamental questions that are going to determine the course of our defense in future years.

I asked Bill Cohen this morning what experiences in his life and particularly during his tenure in Congress helped shape his views in terms of the role of the military and the role of defense. He shared with us a response which I had hoped he would give and was pleased that he did give in outlining some of the experiences he has had in traveling to and visiting with and being with our troops as they serve around the world.

We are often criticized here for some of the travel that we take. I note the Senator from Ohio [Mr. GLENN], is in the Chamber. I will never forget—and

it has been a basis of some of the critical decisions I have had to make regarding defense expenditures and defense policy—the trip we took to Kuwait right after the war and watching Senator GLENN interact with marines and naval personnel and military personnel and they react with him. Senator McCain was with us. There is no substitute for leaving the charts and leaving the Vu-Graphs and leaving the cold facts on a piece of paper and getting out in the field and talking to soldiers, whether it is generals or captains or privates or sergeants.

There is no substitute for learning some of the difficulties that take place, in terms of putting together an adequate defense, some of the challenges that face our country and face those personnel. There is no substitute for dealing with that on a personal basis. Senator Cohen shared that view and shared the view that, when you do that, when you personalize our decisions, when you realize that someone's son or daughter is going to be put at risk in defense of this country, it gives you a different perspective in terms of the kind of equipment, the kind of quality of life, the kind of support for their family, the kind of training and, frankly, the kind of decisions we make in terms of their deployment. I think it is important for every Member to have that perspective.

I have taken advantage of the opportunity as a member of the Armed Services Committee to travel as much as the schedule will allow and spend as much time with our troops in the field as time allows. It has been just an invaluable experience. I know Senator Cohen will place those experiences at the forefront of his thinking, in terms of the decisions he has to make in the Department of Defense.

I also congratulate Secretary Perry for just an outstanding tenure as Secretary of Defense. I was one of the people who raised the question early on as to whether Secretary Perry, while I acknowledged his masterful technological skills and management skills, whether he could be an effective Secretary of Defense in a political world, trying to deal with all of us and the give and take that takes place, because he is a mild, soft-spoken man. But he is a man of steel. It does not take shouting and it does not take fist pounding to be effective. Secretary Perry proved that.

I watched him in negotiations with the Soviets and with the Russians. I watched him in serious policy debates with some of our allies. I watched him interact with us on very important questions relative to defense, in testimony before our committee. He was a model of civility, a model of decency, a great intellect, a thoughtful, articulate spokesman for the Department of Defense. He served this country well and deserves our accolades.

Finally, let me say when Bill Cohen and I were in the House of Representatives we would participate in the an-

nual Democrat and Republican baseball game. Bill Cohen was known for the best fastball on the team. He struck some fear in the hearts and minds of some of our Democrat opponents. It made me glad I was a Republican. I used to warm up Bill Cohen and that ball was not always down the middle of the plate. I never saw anybody really dig in against him.

There probably are Members of the House today who owe their health to the fact that every time Bill and I would try to run over from the Senate to play in that game, which Bill was then senior Senator, Senator Mitchell would not adjourn the Senate for us so we could participate. We had to carry our beepers. Inevitably, Senator Mitchell or someone else would call a vote and, before Bill made it to the mound to strike fear in the Democrats, the beeper would go off. I always suspected Senator Mitchell had some kind of communication system with his Democrat colleagues in the House and they would say, "Cohen is warming up in the bullpen, call a vote and get him out of here. Our very lives are at risk."

The ability to throw those high hard ones and sometimes keep his adversaries a little bit looser at the plate than maybe they would otherwise be, will serve him well as Secretary of Defense in the tough negotiations that he has coming before him. I wish him nothing but success and I look forward to working with him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. GLENN. Madam President, I associate myself with the remarks all the people made regarding our new Secretary of Defense, now made official in that capacity this afternoon.

I have known Bill for many years. I worked with him. I think he will be a great Secretary of Defense. He will try to fill some very big shoes over there that Bill Perry leaves, who I think turned into one of the greatest Secretaries of Defense since there has been that position in Government.

But I have talked to Bill personally. He knows my admiration for him and my support for him in that office. So I just want to associate myself with all the other fine congratulations that are being offered here on the floor today.

Madam President, I also rise today to introduce the Human Research Subject Protection Act of 1997.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. GLENN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. GLENN pertaining to the introduction of S. 193 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

MEDICAL RESEARCH APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I was pleased to support yesterday as an original cosponsor Senate Resolution 15 which proposes to double appropria-

tions for medical research over the next 5 years. That is a lofty goal. I subscribe to that goal.

During my tenure in the U.S. Senate I have served on the Appropriations Committee and on the subcommittee which has jurisdiction over the Department of Health and Human Services and the funding responsibility for the National Institutes of Health.

I am pleased to note that, notwithstanding very severe budget constraints over the years, the subcommittee has consistently raised the funding, whether it was Senator Weicker, Senator Chiles, or Senator HARKIN, or under my stewardship as chairman.

When I joined the committee in 1981 the appropriations were \$3.6 billion. That has now risen to \$12.7 billion. Since I became chairman in 1996 we raised the funding by 5.7 percent, and in 1997, fiscal year 1997, 6.9 percent, some \$820 million to a total now of \$12.7 billion dollars. When the resolution calls for doubling NIH spending within 5 years, that is a very, very tough goal and a very, very tough objective to me. That would really call for an increase of expenditures of about \$2.5 billion a year. My own view is that it would be a priority worth meeting to reach the goal of \$2.5 billion a year if the allocation to the subcommittee did permit that. But I have grave doubts that will be possible, although it is as I say a lofty goal.

We do need more grants in that field. There are some 27,000 grants now in operation. But only a fraction of the applications receive the grants, and there are many worthwhile grants that ought to be accepted.

There have been tremendous advances in breast cancer and prostate cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, and many, many more.

What I want to say today and do say is that as chairman of the subcommittee I am prepared to commit to an increase in the next year's budget of 7.5 percent, which would amount to some \$950 million.

In making that statement, I want to emphasize how difficult it will be to reach \$950 million and a 7.5-percent commitment. But in articulating, stating that view, that is a strong stretch, considering the funding and the allocation which is present for the subcommittee which I chair. So I invite my colleagues to look toward alternative methods of financing if we are to be able to meet the \$2.5 billion mark, which we really ought to do. But I did want to make a statement today, following the introduction of the resolution yesterday, that there is the commitment that I am prepared to undertake the 7.5-percent figure or \$950 million.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the nomination of Madeleine Albright to be Secretary of State. Additionally, I am pleased to support the nomination of our former colleague, Bill Cohen to be Secretary of Defense.