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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 1997, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1997

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty Lord, the same yesterday, today, and forever, You have been our help in ages past and are our hope for years to come. The sure sign of an authentic relationship with You is that we believe in the future more than the past, and that our previous experiences of Your grace are only a prelude to Your plans for us.

Give us a fresh burst of enthusiasm for the next stage of the unfolding drama of the American dream. Infuse our souls with vibrant patriotism, energize our efforts with the power of Your spirit. You have made politics a high calling. In response we commit our time, effort, and resources to the sacred service of formulating public policy in keeping with Your will for our beloved Nation. May all that we do and are today be so obviously an expression of Your truth, righteousness, and justice for our Nation that we can press on with the confidence of Your blessing. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader I announce the

schedule for today's session. This morning, the Senate will be proceeding to executive session to begin 30 minutes of debate on the nomination of Andrew Cuomo to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. All Senators should expect the rollcall vote to begin on that nomination at approximately 10 a.m. this morning. Following that vote, the Senate will begin a period of morning business to allow Senators to introduce legislation and make statements.

The majority leader has also announced that it is possible today the Senate will begin debate on the nomination of William Daley to be Secretary of Commerce. However, the rollcall vote on that nomination is not expected to occur until tomorrow and all Members will be notified accordingly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session to consider the nomination of Andrew Cuomo to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

NOMINATION OF ANDREW M. CUOMO OF NEW YORK TO BE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrew M. Cuomo of New York to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from New York is recognized.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Melody Fennel and David Hardiman be permitted privileges of the floor during consideration of the pending nomination.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to support a native New Yorker, a fellow New Yorker, Andrew Cuomo, to be Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. I am pleased that the Senate Banking Committee reported Mr. Cuomo's nomination yesterday by a unanimous vote. I am privileged to support the confirmation of a native New Yorker, particularly one who has done so much in the area of housing in such a relatively short period of time. I commend Mr. Cuomo for his record of public service, first as an advocate for the homeless, and second in terms of his stewardship as Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development at HUD.

Since 1993, the Secretary has successfully presided over an annual budget of nearly \$10 billion, encompassing a wide diversity of housing, community, and economic development programs. He has shown innovation, insight, and tireless efforts to serve our cities, suburbs and rural areas. He has done so in a way that has avoided partisanship with an eye toward giving to many of those who would otherwise not have the opportunity for good, safe, affordable housing. That is his record as it relates to the private sector in providing transitional housing for the homeless.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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It is not good enough, Mr. President, to simply say, "Let's build a shelter, temporary, for the homeless," and bring them off the streets and leave them in a situation that during the day, or when the weather is not inclement, they go back out into the community and wander around aimlessly. We cannot then think the community has met its obligation, its moral and ethical responsibilities to those people—when we take them back in during inclement weather but again discharge them.

Mr. Cuomo, as a young man in 1986, founded and served as president of Housing Enterprise for the Less Privileged, known as HELP. HELP is a provider of housing which uses a strategy to move homeless people from the streets to transitional housing with supportive services to deal with the number of problems that these families may have, like drug addiction and alcohol addiction. HELP was a model for his approach to homelessness that he utilized at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. HELP is providing assistance for over 4,000 people each year.

His grassroots background working in communities, not coming in opposition and thrusting a program upon the community, but working with the community and the private sector, has helped provide him with the insights that I think are so necessary in order for us not to have a department that looks down upon the cities and the States and the communities, but instead works with them in partnership.

Mr. President, let me suggest the Department of Housing and Urban Development needs a lot of work. It needs to be improved. There are some very serious problems. Indeed, unless we address those problems we could face a very difficult situation with hundreds of thousands of people being in a position that they are unable to live in a decent place. We are now approaching a situation that has built up over the years. Our section 8 program's current renewal budget is something in the area of \$3.4 billion. That is what we are going to spend to help people who live in this section 8 assisted housing pay for the differential in terms of what they can afford to pay and what the rent is established at. Mr. President, 38 percent are senior citizens. That budget need will rise this October from \$3.4 billion to over \$10 billion.

The total HUD budget is only \$20 billion. And we have an increase of approximately \$7 billion. Where will that money come from? Are we going to increase? Is the administration and the Congress going to increase by \$7 billion the HUD budget? I do not think so.

This is going to take innovative leadership. It is going to take a husbanding and directing of resources in the way they should be directed to maximize our spending. I believe it will take a more enlightened approach by the administration and Congress to deal with the insufficiency of resources that HUD presently has.

I do not think it is going to be an easy job to get additional resources given the fact that the inspector general has indicated that there are some very severe problems that exist at HUD. There are serious problems ahead that the new Secretary and the Congress are going to have to deal with. HUD faces a fiscal crisis. Hard choices are going to have to be made.

This really calls upon all of us, including the Secretary under his leadership, to work together to ensure that our Nation's most needy, particularly our senior citizens, are not going to be jeopardized as a result of this fiscal crisis that we are facing. Again that crisis is going to be upon us sooner rather than later. It will be with us this coming October.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I again say that after a very thorough nomination hearing, and Mr. Cuomo meeting with just about every Banking Committee member, the committee unanimously voted for his confirmation. I look forward to a successful confirmation of Andrew Cuomo so that we can begin to work toward our mutual goals of improving access to housing in all of our Nation's communities.

I strongly urge my colleagues to approve this confirmation, and I applaud the President for choosing Andrew Cuomo and designating him to be our next Secretary of HUD.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. SARBANES addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I join my colleague, the chairman of the Banking Committee, Senator D'AMATO of New York, in strong support of the nomination of Andrew Cuomo as the next Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In my judgment, Mr. Cuomo is well qualified for this position. In addition to his background, experience, and record of significant achievement, Andrew Cuomo will provide the Department with stability and continuity since he has been an Assistant Secretary at the Department over the past 4 years.

As HUD's Assistant Secretary for Community and Planning Development, Andrew Cuomo played a significant role in this administration's efforts to revitalize America's distressed communities and a significant role in their efforts to restructure the Department itself. In that regard, outgoing HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros—who I think deserves the thanks of all of us for the very stellar service he has given to the Nation—made significant progress in addressing the management difficulties that confronted the Department at the beginning of his tenure. Andrew Cuomo was part of that team, and his familiarity with the way the Department works and the reforms now underway will provide for a smooth transition that will allow this progress to move forward.

Mr. Cuomo's activities in the realm of housing and urban development prior to his joining the Department at the beginning of the first Clinton administration demonstrated the initiative and innovation that he has brought with him to the Department. He created HELP, a homeless assistance organization that is now the Nation's largest provider of transitional housing for the homeless. He also developed the alternative approaches to urban revitalization and community development that led to the founding of the Genesis project, a program that has created partnerships between State and local governments and the private sector to provide affordable housing.

Mr. Cuomo has put this past experience and the vision connected therewith to work over the past 4 years as HUD Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. His achievements during this period in that office were many. This morning, I want to underscore three achievements, in particular, that indicate his promise as he takes on the larger challenge of stewardship of the entire Department of Housing and Urban Development.

First, I want to commend Mr. Cuomo's administration of the HOME Investment Partnership Program. Chairman D'AMATO and former housing subcommittee chairman, Senator Alan Cranston, were very much involved in establishing the HOME program. When the Clinton administration arrived, the relatively new HOME program was moving slowly, seemingly mired in regulation. Mr. Cuomo took the initiative in eliminating those regulations that were obstructing the program's progress. He worked closely with State and local governments and the private sector—both for-profit and nonprofit—to identify the features of the HOME program that needed to change in order to allow the program to function better. The result of his hard work is the effective housing program that HOME has become today. State and local governments, in conjunction with private for-profit and private not-for-profit partners, are producing significant results using HOME funds for activities ranging from housing rehabilitation to home ownership assistance.

Mr. Cuomo has also earned praise for his tireless work on behalf of the homeless. After 4 years as Assistant Secretary, he can take the credit for changing the way that our Nation's homeless programs are administered at the local level. Under his leadership communities have now instituted a continuum of care approach. The continuum of care is a phrase that Andrew Cuomo coined for a comprehensive system of assistance that provides prevention, outreach and screening, emergency shelters, transitional and supportive housing, and permanent housing with services to the homeless where needed. I have seen the effectiveness of the service delivery that comes

with the local planning and coordination that are at the core of the continuum of care approach. Andrew Cuomo has made these happen.

Third, Mr. Cuomo deserves recognition for his direction of the HUD programs that assist local economic development. He has worked hard to make the Community Development Block Grant Program a more effective tool for local communities pursuing new economic development opportunities. He has also expanded the section 108 loan guarantee program, greatly improving that program's use by local government. And, he has served ably as the principal Federal official charged with the implementation of the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Programs. All of these activities will become increasingly important as the Nation struggles with its commitment to move families from welfare to work.

Andrew Cuomo reiterated his commitment to his role as HUD Secretary in his statement before the Banking Committee last week, and I quote him:

Our goal must be to create a future unlike any that has come before—a future open to all—in which no person is left behind and in which no community is forgotten. A future in which everyone willing to do his or her part will be empowered with the tools to reach as high as their talents and hard work will take them.

Mr. President, it is clear why President Clinton has selected Andrew Cuomo as the next Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this very fine nomination.

Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Connecticut whatever time he may require.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the nomination of Andrew Cuomo for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Those of us who have worked closely with Andrew Cuomo over the years, and have witnessed his remarkable range of skills, know that he will become an outstanding leader for the Department. He has a remarkable record of achievement in both the public and private sectors.

I commend President Clinton for selecting him to help our communities prepare for the next century.

For a number of years, Andrew Cuomo worked on the frontlines of community development. Although he could have lived a comfortable life as a

partner at an established law firm, he answered the call to public service. In 1986, he started an organization called HELP, that worked to improve the lives of homeless people.

Under his leadership, HELP grew to 500 employees, and used its \$30 million annual budget to build more than 120 million dollars worth of housing and help thousands of homeless people move off the streets.

While developing HELP, Andrew Cuomo realized that it was not enough to simply build housing. Although shelter was a key part of the formula for success, homeless people could not move to productive lives without additional support. Consequently, HELP also provided opportunities designed to make the homeless self-sufficient, including substance abuse treatment, mental health care, job training, education, and child care.

This experience at the local level, the hands-on effort to build housing and transform lives, gave Andrew Cuomo invaluable experience. He met a payroll. He dealt with Government bureaucracies. And he learned that public-private partnerships will only work if everyone performs efficiently.

Andrew Cuomo brought those lessons to HUD, when he was confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Community Planning and Development in 1993. His consolidated planning effort merged 12 bureaucratic processes into a streamlined system.

This system reduced paperwork and redtape. Now communities can use Government programs more effectively. We need more efforts like this—where the Federal Government is not the problem, but part of the solution.

Additionally, Andrew Cuomo helped make HUD's homeless programs work better. With the knowledge gained from his experience at HELP, he implemented a new continuum of care strategy. This strategy addresses each part of the homeless problem—from the emergency situation where someone is sleeping on the street, to the drug and alcohol problems that must be treated when a person is in transitional housing, to the final job-training efforts that are necessary to help someone become a productive and member of society.

This comprehensive approach to complex problems will be critical in the years ahead. Welfare reform will have a dramatic effect on cities across this country. We must all work to ensure that efforts to solve one problem do not create new problems.

In the years ahead, we must do much more to rebuild our cities. Too many families are trapped by poverty and despair. We have to free their talents with better educational and job-training opportunities. And most importantly, we must help people find work, because a good-paying job—and the respect and self-esteem that come with it—provides the foundation for a better life.

Andrew Cuomo's dedicated efforts to expand economic opportunity will play

a critical role in helping to meet this challenge. At HUD, he helped strengthen job creation tools, including the Economic Development Initiative which provides low-interest loans to cities. With these tools, communities have leveraged over \$8 billion from private sources, and helped put thousands of Americans to work.

In short, Andrew Cuomo offers the talent, dedication, and leadership that HUD needs to help communities meet the challenges of the next century.

During the Banking Committee hearing on his nomination, he demonstrated a keen understanding of the problems facing HUD, including staffing issues, expiring section 8 contracts, and the need to revitalize our cities. I am confident he will be an outstanding Secretary, and I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

Before closing, I would also like to commend the outgoing Secretary, Henry Cisneros, for his outstanding work. When he took the reins back in 1993, the future of HUD looked bleak. The Department was still struggling to recover from years of corruption, mismanagement, and low morale. The turnaround has been remarkable.

Under the leadership of Secretary Cisneros, HUD is now a stronger partner in the national effort to build better communities. With a smaller work force, HUD is running more efficiently. Around the country, people are regaining confidence in the department.

The changes in public housing are a good example of the changes. Every Member of this body knows how badly conditions had deteriorated in some public housing developments.

I have been through too many buildings that were covered with graffiti, where the ceilings and walls were falling apart, and where families were afraid to go out after dark because gangs controlled the neighborhood.

Secretary Cisneros saw this national disgrace, and took action. HUD is well on its way to tearing down 100,000 units of decayed and dangerous housing. Working with the resilient residents who want to build a better neighborhood, he has brought not only better living conditions, but a sense of hope to families across this Nation.

In my home State of Connecticut, these efforts are helping to transform urban neighborhoods. At the Charter Oak Terrace development in Hartford, residents will soon have better housing, educational programs, and job opportunities. In New Haven, the redevelopment of the Elm Haven apartments will also help lift families out of poverty.

Working together, Henry Cisneros and Andrew Cuomo have already accomplished a great deal. With that experience, Andrew Cuomo will hit the ground running and build upon that record of success. I look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

Let me say in summation for those of us who have worked with and known Andrew Cuomo, this is going to be a

very fine appointment. He understands the agency now, having been there for 3 years in a major capacity. He knows the personnel. He has demonstrated abilities, as I mentioned, in developing the kind of efficiencies in HUD that are absolutely critical.

My hope is that the housing issues and related subject matters will once again become what they were initially, and that is a bipartisan subject. When housing initiatives were identified and supported back in the late 1940's, it was through the efforts of Republicans and Democrats who said that decent, affordable shelter ought not to be something that divides people based on politics or party. I think it is vitally important we get back to that.

We have a wonderful opportunity, in my view, with the chairman of the committee, Senator D'AMATO, and the ranking member, Senator SARBANES, who understand these issues, and a very fine staff that wants to work on them. The fact that Andrew Cuomo comes from New York, the home State of the chairman of the committee, can only strengthen the excellent relationship between the Senate Banking Committee and HUD. I look forward to a new era of cooperation and bipartisanship in seeing to it that decent, affordable shelter and economic development are given the attention they deserve.

With that in mind, I am delighted to join my colleague from New York and my colleague from Maryland and others in strongly endorsing the nomination of Andrew Cuomo to be the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I would like to stress my unambiguous support for President Clinton's nomination of Andrew Cuomo to serve as the next Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In my opinion, Mr. Cuomo has the potential to be one of the strongest HUD Secretaries in the agency's 30 years of existence. Not only does Andrew Cuomo bring strong and relevant skills to this job, but Mr. Cuomo will inherit an agency that is moving in the right direction.

HUD is in much better shape than the agency was in when Henry Cisneros arrived. HUD had suffered greatly during the 1980's from mismanagement and scandal. Secretary Cisneros applied his boundless energy and unique vision to a very difficult task. Those who oppose HUD's important mission tried to use the management difficulties at HUD as an excuse for eliminating the agency. The success of Secretary Cisneros' stewardship has deflated calls for HUD's elimination and has instead changed the national conversation about HUD and housing policy.

In this new conversation on housing programs, we can talk about the transformation of public housing. You can easily witness this transformation at many sites across the country. In my

state, you can see public housing changing at the Orchard Park redevelopment site in Boston and at the Jackson Parkway HOPE VI site in Holyoke, MA. These HOPE VI sites have become the lifeblood for thousands of people and whole communities.

We can also talk about HUD's positive role as a partner with our States and cities: In Massachusetts, HUD is a partner with the State housing agency in a property disposition demonstration. In the neighborhoods of Roxbury and Allston-Brighton, HUD is a partner with the city and the nonprofit community development corporations using CDBG and HOME funds to revitalize distressed neighborhoods.

And, we are able to change the way we talk about cities: Violent crimes in the Nation's 50 largest cities have declined by an average of 13 percent, unemployment has been cut by 3.1 percent in the past 4 years, and home ownership has expanded with nearly 700,000 central city residents having become homeowners since 1990.

Andrew Cuomo has played an important role in these changes. He has helped to change this agency and its role in America's communities. And, because he has been a major player at HUD over the last 4 years, he will be able to capitalize on the progress that he and his predecessor have made.

We can be confident that Andrew Cuomo will be successful over the next 4 years because he has been extremely successful over the last 4. Mr. Cuomo has directed the empowerment zone and enterprise community programs for the Federal Government, he has made major changes in the administration of HUD's homeless assistance programs, he has nurtured and supported the highly successful YouthBuild Program, and he has expanded and improved upon the role that HUD plays in assisting the economic development of distressed communities. He has already made a major mark. He is well prepared to take over the reins at HUD.

In closing, Mr. President, let me reiterate my strong support for this nomination. Most importantly, he comes from one of the major urban centers in the country and from a tradition of paying attention to and assisting our communities. Over the course of the next few years, HUD could face some very tough choices and we need to understand what the consequences of those choices will be. Andrew Cuomo is wholly qualified to meet the challenges that he will face. As the ranking member of the subcommittee with primary responsibility for HUD and its programs, I pledge to do all that I can to aid Mr. Cuomo in succeeding as HUD Secretary. I look forward to working with him over the next 4 years to restore the agency, reinforce its mission, preserve affordable housing, and make significant progress in meeting the housing needs of our people and in revitalizing our distressed communities.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I offer today my strong support for the con-

firmation of Andrew Cuomo as the new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

I want my colleagues to know that Mr. Cuomo is a proven leader in the housing and community development field. For the past 4 years, he has served as the assistant secretary for HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development. While managing a \$10 billion portfolio that has doubled over the last 4 years, he helped reduce administrative overhead by 20 percent—helping us to get more bang for the taxpayers buck. Mr. Cuomo's efforts in merging 12 bureaucratic processes into one streamlined system known as consolidated planning won him the Innovations in American Government award for 1996 from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. His goal of streamlining, decentralizing, and consolidating programs is one that I have advocated for years as chairman and ranking member of the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. Many of Mr. Cuomo's initiatives were based on the recommendations made by the National Academy of Public Administration in a report that I commissioned as chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. Cuomo has also overseen the implementation of the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Initiative, which has combined local community planning with Federal dollars to help produce new jobs and housing in 72 cities. He also created a new economic development initiative which worked in conjunction with a loan guarantee program to provide \$1.85 billion in much needed low-interest loans for cities in 1995, up from \$229 million in 1993. Mr. Cuomo's work on implementing the continuum of care strategy to help the homeless has led to 14 times as many homeless people being served with only twice the funding. In addition, his emphasis on coordination of services and resources has generated 30 times more private and nonprofit dollars since 1992. His focus on real results instead of simplistic statistical compilations of program activity is one which I share and strongly commend.

Mr. Cuomo's service in the field dates back to his founding in 1986 of HELP—Housing Enterprises for the Less Privileged, which grew to become the Nation's largest provider of transitional housing for the homeless. Mr. Cuomo also founded the Genesis project—which develops comprehensive approaches to linking community development with affordable housing. His experiences on the front lines of the battle against urban poverty and despair help him to make practical decisions that work in the real world.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with Mr. Cuomo on making the Department of Housing and Urban Development a more effective and efficient agency. There are major issues that the Department and the Congress

must address this year. We must continue to work to find solutions to the problem of the over-subsidized Section 8 assisted housing inventory. I will continue to insist that we don't create an additional burden for the taxpayers, and that we find a solution that does not lead to community destabilization.

Mr. President, we must also work with Mr. Cuomo to ensure that HUD maintains proper oversight and standards for local public housing authorities. HUD must stand sentry and ensure that local public housing authorities are providing real opportunities—not hollow opportunities—and ensuring adequate housing for the poor citizens of our Nation. I want to work with Mr. Cuomo on ending what I call the zip codes of pathology that have resulted from the programs of the past. We have repealed—in our annual appropriations bills—the Federal preferences that concentrated the poorest of the poor in one area. I will work with Mr. Cuomo and my colleagues on the Banking Committee to make these repeals permanent, in addition to the repeal of such Federal requirements as one-for-one replacement, take-one-take-all, and endless leases.

Mr. President, there is much work to be done at HUD. We must continue to streamline the agency, demolish the worst public housing, and deliver programs that focus on personal and community empowerment. I was pleased to see in Mr. Cuomo's testimony before the Senate Banking Committee on January 22, 1997, he noted that "the object of our efforts must be the development of self-sufficiency, not the perpetuation of government programs." Indeed, the days of a bloated bureaucracy with a focus only on bricks and mortar are gone. We must combine local sweat equity and public-private partnerships with Federal dollars to help rebuild the social fabric of our deteriorating communities. I look forward to working with Mr. Cuomo to make HUD a model agency that makes a real difference in the lives of the people it serves. I will support his efforts to make HUD smarter, smaller and better. I am certain he is up to the task.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I believe Andrew M. Cuomo has the potential to be our Nation's finest Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. I am impressed with his understanding of our Nation's budget situation, and I am equally impressed with his commitment to meeting the housing challenges of needy Americans.

Andrew Cuomo impressed the Senate Banking Committee with his understanding of the section 8 crisis that is upon us. Section 8 is the program by which HUD provides landlords with the necessary subsidies to allow them to rent their property to low-income Americans. A typical section 8 HUD payment will make up the difference between the actual market rent and the ability of the renter to pay. Thus, landlords continue to provide private housing stock to needy Americans. Be-

cause many of the 20-year contracts for section 8 housing are expiring, new Federal commitments of \$16.4 billion are needed by the year 2002. Continuing this basic HUD program will require careful balancing to avoid crowding out other needed housing and community development programs.

I have personally worked with Mr. Cuomo in his valiant efforts to increase funding for housing the homeless while streamlining the many HUD homeless programs. Together, and with the able guidance of the Senate Banking Committee chairman, Senator D'AMATO, we have consolidated them into fewer grants with greater and more reliable impact on the very tough problems of homeless Americans.

A little known HUD section 811 program for the disabled has come a long way under Mr. Cuomo's direction. HUD makes better housing available for the mentally ill and mentally retarded at reasonable costs, so that a handicapped person living on supplemental security income and Medicaid can afford to try more independent living. More group homes have been started to give these disabled Americans a fighting chance at independent living. I am confident that Secretary Cuomo will not abandon the mentally ill or the homeless when he makes his hard budget choices in the next few critical years.

Andrew Cuomo is the founder of the largest provider of homeless services in the Nation. He did this in his native State of New York. There he learned first hand the true value of federal housing assistance as well as its limitations and frustrations. Now he will lead the nation's efforts to help others like himself do the best possible for those most in need of temporary and permanent housing.

Before he left his widely respected HELP nonprofit in New York, Andrew Cuomo had built an organization with 350 employees, a \$25 million budget, and more than \$120 million worth of needed and affordable housing. While serving as HUD Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, Andrew Cuomo got the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Programs up and running after a stiff national competition to select participating towns and cities in urban and rural America.

Under his leadership, the fledgling HOME affordable housing program increased its achievements from less than 2,000 units of affordable housing to over 110,000 units across America. Andrew Cuomo created the HUD Economic Development Initiative, now seen by mayors as their most flexible economic development tool for revitalizing poor communities through a unique combination of HUD resources.

As he said in his confirmation hearing, HUD can be a vital partner with State and local government by being "smarter, smaller, and better." He has a keen eye for the projects that can attract private sector support. He understands the support HUD can give these

projects in revitalization efforts in our inner cities and in rural towns.

I was very impressed with his observation that "the pride and dignity of having a job and earning one's own bread is the best social services program that exists."

Mr. President and Senate colleagues, I highly recommend Andrew M. Cuomo for the important job of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. I urge you to vote in favor of his confirmation today. If you vote to confirm Mr. Cuomo, you will be doing a great service to the millions of Americans whose lives will be touched by his active and creative leadership.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I strongly support the nomination of Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo to be the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and I look forward to his confirmation by the Senate today.

As a member of the Banking Committee, I had the pleasure of participating in Mr. Cuomo's confirmation hearing. I continue to be impressed by Mr. Cuomo's commitment to expanding housing opportunities for the people of this Nation and to cutting the bureaucracy which too often hinders such efforts.

When Congress passed the Public Housing Act of 1937, the findings stated, "It is the policy of the United States to promote the general welfare of the Nation by employing its funds and credit * * * to remedy the unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions and the acute shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for families of lower income * * *". In other words, it is in the Nation's best interest to invest in housing for the American people.

In both word and deed, Andrew Cuomo has demonstrated that he believes in the goals of the 1937 act. From his work founding HELP, the Nation's largest nonprofit provider of transitional housing for the homeless, to his efforts as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Community Planning and Development at HUD, Secretary-designate Cuomo's commitment to expanding housing opportunities for all Americans is clear.

His work was recognized by former New York City Mayor David Dinkins who named Andrew Cuomo chairman of the New York City Commission on the Homeless. The commission's report, "The Way Home: A New Direction in Social Policy," suggested a continuum of care policy that was adopted by the mayor and has been recognized nationally as a model for ending homelessness.

One of the reasons that I am particularly pleased to be supporting this nominee today is that his approach to expanding housing opportunities is multifaceted. When we talk about housing, we are, in reality, talking about community. The home is the building block of the community which in turn is the building block of the Nation.

In order to build community, it is foolish to ignore the availability of capital, the presence or lack of jobs, the wealth or poverty of the residents, or the ability of people to pay their own way, now or in the future.

Andrew Cuomo understands that people often need not only a home, but a job to pay for that home. And he understands the fundamental role of public/private partnerships in providing access to both.

Under his tenure as Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, there has been an increase in the amount of investment available for job creation, business expansion, and capital access for cities, a more effective strategy for reducing homelessness, and the implementation of the important empowerment zone/enterprise community initiatives.

Any new Secretary of HUD will face enormous challenges, not the least of which will be how to effectively streamline and improve the HUD bureaucracy. Good ideas and sound efforts are often prevented from succeeding because the costs of the bureaucracy are too great. Efficiency and economic savings must go hand-in-hand with vision and hard work. I am confident that Andrew Cuomo is the right person to address this set of problems.

I look forward to the rapid confirmation of Andrew Cuomo to be the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I support his confirmation and look forward to working with him to tackle the challenges facing America's communities at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to cast my vote today in support of the nomination of Andrew Cuomo for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Given the opportunity to choose a replacement for outgoing Secretary Henry Cisneros, I would be hard pressed to find a better candidate.

Andrew Cuomo has spent his life helping low-income families find answers to housing problems. His work to combat homelessness in New York and most recently at the Department has helped to take countless needy people off of the streets and put them back on their feet. His innovative continuum of care initiative provided the impetus for Vermont and other States to bring together housing and service providers and develop a comprehensive plan for dealing with homelessness. This approach has ensured that the Department's homelessness programs get the most bang-for-the-buck, and should serve as a model for other Federal programs.

That Yankee knack for cost cutting will serve him well in his new position. When I look at the funding problems ahead for the section 8 housing program and the uncertain impact of welfare reform on the cost of HUD rental assistance programs, I don't know whether to congratulate Andrew

Cuomo on his promotion or offer my sympathies. However, I do know that outgoing Secretary Cisneros is leaving the Department in good hands, and I look forward to working with Secretary Cuomo in the years ahead to address these and other problems facing our Nation's housing programs.

Andrew Cuomo had nationwide responsibilities which he exercised with great skill. In Vermont we look at the people who turned to him for help in my home city of Burlington. He listened. He helped. Today their life is better because of him.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am very pleased about President Clinton's nomination of Andrew Cuomo for Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and am delighted to support this nomination.

Secretary-designate Cuomo's accomplishments in the private sector and as Assistant Secretary of HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development are numerous. Housing assistance systems developed by Andrew Cuomo have served as model systems, achieving success all across this Nation.

At his hearing last week, Secretary-designate Cuomo showed his knowledge, not only of the management problems within HUD, but of the substantive programs as well. Moreover, Secretary-designate Cuomo expressed his vision for HUD with a refreshing realism. He understands HUD's mission, and the limited discretionary spending to achieve the goals of providing housing assistance in this country.

The issues I am primarily concerned about working on were clearly understood by the Secretary-designate. California faces the brunt of the burden with regard to section 8 renewals, preservation, and the impact of welfare reform on housing. Another issue I will continue to try and resolve with HUD and the Veterans' Administration is homelessness among veterans who fought this country's wars.

I believe Andrew Cuomo is distinctly qualified to be Secretary of HUD. The Secretary-designate has been with HUD in a leadership capacity since 1993. He worked closely with outgoing Secretary Henry Cisneros and understands the complex matrix that makes up HUD's existing programs. From his background, experience, and responses at his nomination hearing last week, Mr. Cuomo has shown he understands what it will take to improve upon that matrix.

Americans all across this Nation, in both urban and rural areas, can expect changes positively affecting housing assistance. Again, I fully support Mr. Cuomo's nomination as Secretary of HUD.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I yield back any time that we might have, and 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.

Mr. SARBANES. I yield back any time remaining on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Andrew M. Cuomo, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development? On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 3 Ex.]

YEAS—99

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

NOT VOTING—1

Inouye

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I wish to extend my congratulations to Mr. Cuomo.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

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