

NOMINATION OF EDWARD GNEHM, JR.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank all of my colleagues for the action that was just taken.

This is truly one of the highlights of my Senate career. The nomination that was read individually was my college roommate. I roomed with him for 3 years at George Washington University where he was striving to become a career Ambassador for the United States of America. I watched him work and struggle and exceed all expectations. He is extremely brilliant and has been able to get the kind of career that he wanted.

I thank the Senator from Wyoming, who is presiding, for the rapid action that he took to have the hearing held on this nomination.

I thank the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. HELMS, for the expeditious work that he did with the full committee to get this name brought before the Senate.

We have a truly dedicated career officer who will be serving us in Australia. I know him very well. I canoed with him in the swamps of Georgia.

I watched his career and his travels. Most of my travels around the world have been through his eyes, as he has been located in different positions beginning with Katmandu, Nepal.

I think we owe a lot of thanks not only to him but to his family, and his wife Peggy, who has gone with him on these travels. They served well as ambassadors for our country.

When he had a break, he came back to the United States and served in the State Department. I was often able to see him in Washington. I watched him as he was liaison for the Defense Department, liaison for the State Department with Senator KENNEDY, and in a number of other positions.

He and I have daughters who are the same age. We have sons who are the same age. His son, Ed, is married to the daughter of the couple who introduced my wife and I. How did a Wyoming girl meet somebody out here? They met at my swearing-in ceremony. The two dads were part of my wedding. And I was there to see their children's marriages in Wyoming.

Skip is a fraternity brother of mine and is actually the only brother that I have.

With this action taken today, the United States will be well served in Australia. This is the correct action, the best action, and this is the best representation we can get.

I thank all of my colleagues for their support in getting this important nomination approved.

AUTHORIZATION OF TESTIMONY BY SENATE EMPLOYEE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 320, submitted earlier by Senator LOTT and Senator DASCHLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 320) to authorize testimony by a Senate employee in a State administrative proceeding.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, a caseworker employed in the state office of Senator WILLIAM V. ROTH, Jr. has been subpoenaed to testify at an unemployment compensation benefits hearing before the Delaware Department of Labor.

The testimony concerns contacts that the caseworker had with the claimant in the course of assisting the claimant's employing business with casework matters.

In accordance with the rules of the Senate, this resolution would enable the caseworker to testify in response to the subpoena.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 320) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 320

Whereas, in the Inquiry Relative to the Claim for Benefits of Yolanda Nock, pending before the Department of Labor, in the County of Sussex, State of Delaware, a subpoena for testimony has been issued to Elinor Hughes, an employee of the Senate on the staff of Senator William V. Roth, Jr.;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Elinor Hughes is authorized to testify in the Inquiry Relative to the Claim for Benefits of Yolanda Nock, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

CONGRATULATING REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN S.F. CHEN

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 121, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Con. Res. 121) congratulating Representative Stephen S.F. Chen on the occasion of his retirement from the diplomatic service of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, a motion to consider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 121) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 121

Whereas Representative Stephen S. F. Chen has been a member of Taiwan's diplomatic service for forty-seven years;

Whereas Representative Chen has represented Taiwan's interests in such countries as the Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, and the United States;

Whereas Representative Chen has held a number of important positions in his government at home, including those of Vice Foreign Minister and Deputy Secretary-General to President Lee Teng-hui;

Whereas Representative Chen's many years of service in the United States include appointments as Taiwan's Consul-General in Atlanta from 1973 to 1979 and as Director of the Coordination Council for North American Affairs in Chicago from 1980 to 1982 and Los Angeles from 1988 to 1989;

Whereas Representative Chen has served with distinction as Taiwan's senior diplomat in the United States since 1997, when he became the Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas Representative Chen has been a friend of the United States and earned the respect and genuine affection of many Members of the Senate and House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Representative Stephen Chen is to be congratulated for his many years of distinguished service to Taiwan and for his friendship to the United States; and

(2) the best wishes of Congress are to be extended to Representative Chen and his family on the occasion of his retirement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

40 YEARS TOO LONG—THE CUBAN EMBARGO

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, when President Kennedy announced a trade embargo on Cuba in 1961, the consensus in Washington was that stifling the Cuban economy would lead to internal unrest and ultimately depose the anti-American president, Fidel Castro. Since that time, Congress has tightened the screws on Cuba to include food and medicine in the embargo and to put pressure on other countries not to trade with Cuba. We have made it more difficult to lift the embargo by requiring a two-thirds vote by Congress and we have passed a law that says no government involving Fidel Castro or his brother will be acceptable to the U.S., even if they were chosen in Democratic elections. Through it all, our

main nemesis, Fidel Castro, has survived. In fact, he is strong as ever. To gain a better understanding of this issue, I recently led a group of Arkansas farmers to Havana to see firsthand the impact of our policy and the potential opportunities that exist should this policy be changed. I entered Havana focused on Cuba's potential as a new trade market for Arkansas agriculture producers. I left Havana with a new understanding of the embargo's effects on the people of Cuba. I returned from Cuba more confident than ever that the U.S. embargo on Cuba must be lifted. The three most compelling reasons for my stance on this issue are: (1) the fact that we should engage countries, not isolate them in order to move them forward and help them to gain potential; (2) the overall effect on the American economy that losing the trade with Cuba has had; and (3) the humanitarian impact on the Cuban people.

This was my first trip to Cuba and it was extremely worthwhile. I found the country and its people impressive and possessing great potential. The architecture in downtown Havana was charming, however, it struck me that someone had turned the lights out 40 years ago and no one has thought to flip the switch back on. The gorgeous architecture was crumbling along with the people. The physical decay of the cities, buildings, and infrastructure is readily apparent. This obvious economic and physical decline has not, however, led to an uprising of Cuban citizens demanding for a more democratic government based on capitalistic principles. It has been four decades since the embargo was enforced for political reasons. Times have clearly changed. The Soviet Union no longer aids Cuban efforts to challenge U.S. interests in Central America and elsewhere. The Soviet Union does not even exist.

The Cold War has been over for 10 years and the U.S. has normal trade relations with all of the countries of the former Eastern bloc. Yet we continue to ostracize Cuba. U.S. defense analysts even maintain that Cuba does not pose a security threat to our country at the turn of the century. Is Cuba an ideal nation? Absolutely not. But there are other countries that we trade with and maintain normal diplomatic relations with whose governments are not democratically elected; where full respect for internationally recognized human rights is lacking; where there is little or no tolerance for political dissent; or where private enterprise is largely illegal.

The first of these countries that comes to mind is China. Prior to the Memorial Day recess the House of Representatives voted to grant Permanent Normal Relations (PNTR) status to the Republic of China. The Senate will likely vote on this matter soon. On this separate but related issue let me be clear. I look forward to the China PNTR debate and urge my colleagues

to join me in support of expanding our trading opportunities. I hope that we can pass PNTR with China as quickly as possible with no amendments so that President Clinton can sign this landmark legislation into law. As I have watched the China PNTR debate rage in Washington during recent weeks, I am struck by the common theme that we, as a nation, can influence a country's actions much more by engaging them in trade and communication than we ever could by ignoring and isolating them.

I've held to this belief for quite some time in regard to China as well as Cuba. China is the largest Communist country in the world. The U.S. has annually granted China its most-favored-nation status and will likely approve Permanent Normal Trade Relations in the coming months. Our treatment of Cuba should be no different. It is true that China has made various overtures and taken some positive steps as their acceptance into the WTO is being considered. China has allowed for a limited amount of private enterprise to exist. And recently, China purchased goods from the U.S. as a good faith gesture that they will live up to the commitments negotiated in the WTO accession agreement. Many who oppose trade with Cuba ask, "Why are we not holding Cuba to the same standard? Why don't we require them to privatize certain business entities or purchase some commodities as a good faith gesture?" The option to purchase U.S. goods is not available to Cuba, as it is to China, due to laws that we have passed in this very institution. Their hands are tied.

Yet Cuba is taking steps on its own regarding private industry. Recent progress has been made in the form of joint ventures to facilitate the tourism industry in Cuba. For instance, the hotel we stayed in was a joint venture with the Dutch. Of course the government is still participating, but it is an example of private capital coming in from another source and affecting the people's way of life. The people working at those hotels receive tips from tourists that put them way above the daily wage of average Cubans. Steps made in these directions can only foster and plant positive seeds for change. We can also expect the rapidly and advancing technology of the Internet to help open doors to Cuba. Just as Chinese dissidents communicate today over the Internet in spite of attempts by the Communists to stop them, I can anticipate a day when the Cuban people do the same thing.

The farmers of Cuba are incapable of producing enough to sustain the 11 million inhabitants of the Caribbean island. Therefore, food must be imported. Our allies are already meeting that need and trading with Cuba. Rice is coming into Cuba from Asia, soybeans from Brazil, while our farmers endure some of the worst prices they have seen in decades.

We have put ourselves in a position where we are hurting our own economy

and the backbone of our nation, the America farmer. By denying our farmers access to additional markets, like Cuba, we are ignoring a pledge that was made with the passage of the 1996 Farm Bill to open markets, the necessary markets our farmers need. Promises regarding enhanced trading opportunities and the free market abounded with passage of the so-called Freedom to Farm Act. Yet, the recently passed Caribbean/Africa Trade bill was the first trade bill Congress has passed in six years. We have failed to grant the President Fast Track Authority and essentially guaranteed the failure of our nation's farmers by granting them the ability to produce as much as they are capable while denying them access to sufficient markets to move their goods. For the American farmer the combination of this nation's Ag and foreign trade policies is a no-win situation.

For soybeans alone, opening up trade with Cuba could mean a \$60 million market. In Arkansas, we could ship 400,000 tons of rice right down the Mississippi River, through the Gulf of Mexico to the Cuban people. Food products would be a phone call and a couple of days away. Instead, the Cuban people are left paying higher prices for a lower quality product that takes weeks, sometimes months, to arrive in their ports.

Rice is a staple of the Cuban diet and we know how to grow it in Arkansas. Arkansas is consistently the top U.S. producer of rice. Exports are extremely important to the rice industry. Last year, the rice industry exported to more than 100 countries. Trade and trade policy, therefore, are critical to the continued success of the industry.

At the time that the U.S. Government imposed sanctions on trade with Cuba, it was not only our largest export market for rice, but it took more than one-half of our total rice exports. Cubans know good American rice, and they want it. The embargo dealt a major blow to the rice industry, particularly growers in the South who grow long grain rice, which is the rice of preference in Cuba. The only impact the embargo has had on Cuba is on its middle- to low-income citizens. We are hurting the Cuban people much more than the Cuban government or Cuban elite. Due to the high prices the government is forced to pay, less food is available for distribution. U.S. humanitarian organizations are prevented from providing food to starving children due solely to the existence of the embargo.

While in Cuba, I met with opponents of the Castro regime who have been persecuted for attempting to highlight the disparate human rights treatment in Cuba. These dissidents believe that the embargo gives the Cuban government an excuse for what is wrong with the country. Our embargo provides Cuban officials with an excuse for the sorry state of the economy and the challenges the country faces. If we lift

the embargo, we expose the Cuban people to many of the problems of their own government. Right now the Cuban people are only getting one side of the story, and they are not blaming their government or Fidel Castro for their troubles, because Fidel Castro is using the U.S. Government as the excuse for those problems.

I understand there are colleagues in this body whom I deeply respect who also disagree with me on this issue. I agree that should the U.S. lift its embargo on Cuba, Fidel Castro will probably declare victory over what he calls his imperialist oppressor to his north. But the real truth which is undeniably is that under current policy absolutely no one wins.

As a farmer's daughter, I am not so concerned about the short-term implications of who can claim victory after 40 years of economic isolation. I believe that the long-term benefits of engagement with Cuba offer economic benefit to Americans; opportunities for democratic influences inside Cuba and better living conditions for the Cuban people. Each of these goals strike me as fundamental principles of our unique, American democracy. Lifting the 40-year embargo on Cuba is the right thing to do. I hope we do it sooner than later.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate, under the previous order, will stand adjourned until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, June 12, 2000.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:54 a.m., adjourned until Monday, June 12, 2000, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 9, 2000:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOUGLAS A. DWORKIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

EDWARD E. KAUFMAN, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2000.

ALBERTO J. MORA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2000.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAVID N. GREENLEE, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY.

SUSAN S. JACOBS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO SOLOMON ISLANDS, AND AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU.

JOHN F. TEFFT, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

JOHN R. DINGER, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MONGOLIA.

DONNA JEAN HRINAK, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.

JOHN MARTIN O'KEEFE, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC.

EDWARD WILLIAM GNEHM, JR., OF GEORGIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO AUSTRALIA.

DANIEL A. JOHNSON, OF FLORIDA, CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME.

V. MANUEL ROCHA, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA.

ROSE M. LIKINS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR.

W. ROBERT PEARSON, OF TENNESSEE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY.

MARC GROSSMAN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

ANNE WOODS PATTERSON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

JAMES DONALD WALSH, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ARGENTINA.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING CRAIG B. ALLEN, AND ENDING DANIEL E. HARRIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 7, 2000.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING C. FRANKLIN FOSTER JR., AND ENDING MICHAEL PATRICK GLOVER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 7, 2000.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING LESLIE O'CONNOR, AND ENDING DAVID P. LAMBERT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 11, 2000.