

the baseball World Series. Naturally, we Arizonans are very proud of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

I am proud of the New York Yankees, and I am proud of the people of the city of New York. Ever since I was a little kid, I was a New York Yankees fan because my grandfather used to listen to the games on the radio back in the Midwest I became familiar with the statistics of all of the great players of the New York Yankees throughout the years, mostly through the good but through both the good and the bad.

They have been the most successful franchise in baseball history, of course, and when the events of September 11 occurred in New York City, all of America, in a sense, became New York Yankees fans. When they won the American league pennant and went to the World Series for the first time probably in their history, Americans were pulling for the New York Yankees rather than the other team which, of course, had always before been the underdog, and mostly Americans pulled for the underdog. But this time, they were pulling for the New York Yankees; everybody except, that is, the Arizona Diamondbacks fans.

Four years ago, Arizona got a baseball team. At that point, I became, at least in the National League, an Arizona Diamondbacks fan. My fantasy was to have a World Series that involved the American League champion, the New York Yankees, and the National League champion, the Arizona Diamondbacks, in which both teams would do very well and which would be won by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the bottom of the ninth inning of the seventh game.

Lo and behold, that is exactly what happened, a dream come true for a baseball fan all of my life and somebody who likes both of these teams very well.

Obviously, I rooted for the Diamondbacks. I understand the disappointment of the New Yorkers who lost but, of course, as we all know, New Yorkers have more often than not been on the other side and have tasted the fruits of victory.

All Americans appreciate the valiant battle both teams put up and certainly what the New York Yankees were trying to achieve for not only themselves as a team but the people of New York. In a larger sense, all Americans participated in this series fully aware of what it meant to the people of New York and, frankly, it meant that same thing for all of the people of America because we could not go to the series with the Yankees playing without thinking of the events of September 11.

Yet in another way, the series having been won by a new, fresh team, the Arizona Diamondbacks, I think also is a great thing for America. As a Diamondbacks fan, it is especially gratifying that after just 4 short years, the Arizona Diamondbacks won the baseball World Series, the shortest period of time ever in the history of baseball.

It was not by accident. The Arizona Diamondbacks wanted to play the very best in the World Series. They wanted to play the New York Yankees; they got that chance. They wanted to beat the very best, and in Mariano Rivera, the New York Yankees' relief pitcher, that is who they had to beat in the bottom of the ninth. And they did. It takes nothing away from Rivera or the rest of the Yankees who are truly a class act, but what it shows is that there has now begun a new dynasty in baseball—the Arizona Diamondbacks. They won 100 games in their second season, did not win the National League pennant but did very well.

Naturally, we were very proud of them. Now to win it all in the World Series really caps it off for Arizona fans.

My hat goes off to the general partner of the Arizona Diamondbacks, Jerry Colangelo. Jerry is known in the sports world as a very successful sports entrepreneur, a real fan, and also a participant. He himself played ball in his youth and, coming from Chicago, obviously was involved in the key franchise of the Chicago Bulls, came to Arizona, and helped create the Phoenix Suns, a very successful franchise in its own right.

He was the natural person to whom the leaders of Phoenix came when they wanted to put together a major league baseball team. And he said: I really have my hands full with the other things I'm doing, including the Phoenix Suns and in getting a new stadium, a new place for the Phoenix Suns to play ball; and he said: We would have to have a brand new ballpark: that would take a lot in terms of public support, and I would rather not be involved in it.

But he was the logical choice, and reluctantly he agreed to take the leadership in bringing together the Arizona baseball franchise. He did that. He raised the money. He provided the leadership. He got the BankOne ballpark built with a beautiful stadium in downtown Phoenix with a retractable roof that goes back and forth in 6 minutes, a beautiful natural turf ballpark in which to play.

His philosophy was to create a winner. Jerry Colangelo is about winning. He is not a guy who just wants to field a team and then perhaps take 20 years to get to the World Series. He thought the Arizona fans deserved a winner at the very beginning, and that is what he set about to create. Naturally, it did not come free, and as a result, because a new major league baseball franchise cannot participate in most of the revenues from the league for I think it is about 5 years, it was very costly to the people who supported the team, and financially, obviously, they are not in as good shape as some other teams that have been there a lot longer.

So this will be a big boon to them not just from a fan support base but financially as well. Therefore, I really appreciate what has happened for Jerry

Colangelo. He deserves the very best, as does his management team, his son Bryan, and all the others who worked to make that a great family and a great team in the State of Arizona.

I note that I talked to Jerry Colangelo this morning. He had received a congratulatory call from President Bush, himself a great baseball fan. And hopefully some of the Diamondbacks will be able to get to Washington in the not too distant future to meet with the President. He is also on the way to Chicago for the baseball owners meetings, and there are some big decisions the owners have to make about this great American pastime.

I just wanted to share with my colleagues my joy, and I am sure I speak for all the people in Arizona, the way they feel about the Arizona Diamondbacks this year, the way they have kept together as a team. They have had to play a very tough National League Western Division, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants, who were challenging them every step of the way. San Diego was a tough team for them, as were the Colorado Rockies.

All of those teams deserve a lot of credit. But in the end it was the Arizona Diamondbacks who marched through the other teams and ended up beating Atlanta to take the pennant and I think, in facing the New York Yankees, faced the best the American League had to offer. It was obviously a victory in which all of Arizona can take a great deal of pride. And I hope fans across the United States who may have been pulling for the Yankees for other sentimental reasons this year will take a good hard look at the upstart Arizona Diamondbacks who deserve a lot of credit, having beaten the best, and will be around for a long time to come as a great baseball team playing our great national pastime.

A final word on this. I was talking to somebody this morning who said: You know, during this series, which has to go down as one of the greatest series in the history of baseball, the way the games were won in Yankee Stadium and in the bottom of the ninth in the seventh game in Phoenix, a lot of America was focused on having fun with our national pastime and not thinking about some of the more serious and difficult issues we have had to face. One of the ways we can show the terrorists that they can have absolutely no chance of beating the American spirit is to continue to do what we enjoy, and that includes enjoying our great national pastime, baseball. So my hat is off to the Arizona Diamondbacks.

NOMINATION OF JOHN WALTERS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, the other subject I want to talk about today is also, I hope, good news in that it involves what I think the Senate will be able to take up very soon, and that is

the nomination of the last of the President's Cabinet officers, who is John Walters to be the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, often known as the drug czar.

John Walters has a great history of service in the area of drug control policy. He is a superb nomination of President Bush. His nomination has been around now for over 5 months. The President nominated him on June 5. We are now 5 months later and he has not yet been confirmed by the Senate.

His hearing was held on October 10, a month after it had originally been scheduled on September 11, and this hearing lasted I think over 3 hours. He was asked a lot of questions by a lot of the members. I think anything that had been on anybody's mind was adequately covered. I think subsequent to that time he has answered over 60 questions with a lot of subparts that have gone into further detail, including questions submitted by members not even of the Judiciary Committee chaired by the Presiding Officer.

I am hopeful that at our business meeting this week John Walters will be passed out of the Judiciary Committee so that he can be considered by the full Senate and we can have him confirmed and he can be in place before Thanksgiving. It seems to be not too much to ask of the Senate to confirm Cabinet officers before Thanksgiving of the year in which they are nominated, particularly when their nominations have been pending for so long.

Let me say a couple words about John Walters. And I have to say I am biased because I know this fine man.

I recently met his family. My daughter and his wife are friends. I know the Walters to be a very fine family. His service to this country has exemplified the values I know he cherishes. They are values that manifest themselves in trying to tell young people in this country why the path of drugs is the wrong path for them, trying to help people who have gotten involved in drugs get back on the right track through treatment and rehabilitation, trying to develop a national strategy that helps us keep drugs out of the country, that interdicts them and tries to deal with them in the places of their origin and tracks down the people who perpetrate the trade in drugs and traffic in them, selling them to young people, to provide punishment for those drug traffickers.

All of the aspects of the war on drugs—and that is an unfortunate term—require focus and attention by the Office of Drug Control Policy. When John Walters served in that office under President George Bush—the first President George Bush—later acting deputy director for 4 years in the Bush administration of the Office of Drug Policy, he became intimately familiar with all aspects of our war on drugs.

He participated significantly in the issues relating to drug treatment. I know one of the questions was whether

he was as strongly committed to drug treatment as he was to some of the other aspects of drug control policy.

I note that there are certain parts of drug policy that are the responsibility of the U.S. Government because as a nation we deal with drug interdiction and as a foreign policy matter we deal with eradication of drugs in foreign lands and their interdiction before they come into the United States. That is a Federal responsibility; it is not performed by, for example, the city of Phoenix.

But when we get to drug education, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, those are shared responsibilities starting with our local communities that have a great deal to say about how those programs get carried out in each individual community, supported by the States and ultimately also by the U.S. Government.

When one examines the role of the Federal Government and the people who have worked on this issue in Washington, it is important to separate those functions which are purely and strictly of the Federal Government as opposed to those jobs which are shared by other jurisdictions. Our focus needs to be primarily on the former. We share a responsibility with all of the other States and local communities with respect to the latter. That doesn't mean we are any less committed to antidrug education, treatment, and rehabilitation.

I think there was a sense that that was perhaps John Walters' philosophy. Absolutely nothing could be further from the truth. As a matter of fact, he was one of the architects of the new drug strategy and the Federal spending plan that targeted drug treatment and treatment research when he was in the Bush administration. He was certainly behind the move to expand the budget and programs for drug prevention.

I think all of that became clarified during the hearing. There was a great deal of support in the Judiciary hearing for the President's commitment of additional resources. I believe the number is \$1.6 billion for these programs.

I specifically asked him whether or not he would be a strong advocate for administering this program as the President had outlined it. He said absolutely he would. I think there is no doubt about the fact that he is committed to treatment and prevention and will strongly support the President's plan in that regard.

His work, by the way, first began in the mid-1980s when he worked on drug policy matters at the U.S. Department of Education and was actually responsible in that position for a drug prevention guide. Over 1 million copies were distributed. That is when I first became aware of his work. But of course his later work was in the Office of Drug Control Policy itself, 4 years total serving as chief of staff from 1989 through 1991, and then deputy director for supply reduction from 1991 through 1992.

I hope somebody with the long experience he has had in this area can quickly be confirmed by the Senate to assist the President in this war on drugs and to fill out the last Cabinet position in the Bush administration.

There is one other reason I come to the floor today: To make the point that has to do with our war on terrorism.

As we know—and as we can discuss in a lot more detail than we are permitted to do here in public—terrorists in several places in the world are significantly supported financially through the drug trade. It is therefore important for us, while we are fighting this war on terrorism, to not forget that a key component of terrorism financing in many places in the world is the drug trade. That is the responsibility of the Office of Drug Control Policy, primarily coordinating the different agencies of the U.S. Government in fighting the war on terrorism. It is yet another reason we need a leader at the top of that organization. It is true we have a lot of good people fighting that battle around the world today, but the direction that can come only from the director—a Cabinet officer of the President—I think is critical.

Therefore, if we are going to do everything we can in fighting the war on terrorism, which all of us like to say around here, one of the things we must do is to quickly confirm John Walters as the drug czar.

One of the key components of fighting drugs is also fighting the war on terror. That is why I conclude by urging my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to confirm John Walters when we vote on him, presumably this week, and to quickly get his nomination before the Senate so that all 100 Senators can have a vote on the confirmation of John Walters as drug czar. I would love to have that vote before the end of this week. I am sure the President would as well. But we have to do it within the next few days, in any event. If there is any concern or objection to John Walters, I hope Members will bring those concerns to me so I can do whatever I can to ensure that he can satisfy those concerns.

The bottom line is that we need this position filled since he is the right man for the job. He has the President's confidence, and it is about time we confirmed him as drug czar. I hope my colleagues will act on that quickly.

Those are two bits of good news: The victory of the Arizona Diamondbacks and my hope that we will quickly confirm John Walters and conclude the confirmation process of the President's Cabinet.

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. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

NICARAGUAN PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, yesterday our neighbors to the south in Nicaragua went to the polls to elect a new President. The liberal party candidate, Enrique Bolanos, appears to be the winner. With part of the vote counted this afternoon, he has 53 percent of the vote, while Sandinista leader, Daniel Ortega, trails with 45 percent. Although votes still remain to be counted, Ortega has conceded defeat.

But right up to yesterday, when people actually went to the polls in Nicaragua, the candidates were running neck and neck, we are told, in a very heated and very tight race. It is disconcerting that the race was even close at all. The very fact that Ortega, a Marxist Communist sympathizer, could come close to regaining power tells us that it is time for the United States to wake up and start paying attention to our neighbor to the south. If we do not, we will see Daniel Ortega or another leftist radical regain power sometime in the future.

The fact is that unless we pay attention, unless we take notice, history may well repeat itself. Sometimes we in the United States have a tendency to go from crisis to crisis. We try to deal with the crisis and then, once the crisis is over, we forget about that region or that part of the world or that country. That is what I think we have done in Central America.

In the 1980s, when I was a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the world's spotlight, and this Congress' spotlight, the country's spotlight was on Nicaragua; it was on El Salvador; it was on many of our neighbors in South and Central America.

The 1980s and the 1990s brought a very significant increase in democracy in this hemisphere. Many of us have come to the Chamber and talked about that. We have talked about the fact that this hemisphere is so much more democratic today than it has ever been in the past. Today, all but one of our region's 33 countries have democratically elected heads of state. But we have seen a retrenching of that in the last few years.

While we justifiably are worried about many other parts of the world, we should not forget about our neighbors to the south. In fact, a recent poll indicates a steep decline in support for democracy among Latin American and Central American countries. If we look at Nicaragua, that same poll shows that only 43 percent of Nicaraguans support democracy. That figure was at 72 percent just 3 years before, nearly a 30-percent drop.

In the same poll, Nicaragua registered the largest increase in support for authoritarian government, a 16-percent increase over the previous year's figure.

Maybe these startling figures should come as no surprise. History does offer us a sober reminder that oppressive regimes often spring from misery, despair, and joblessness. Nicaragua has never recovered from the war of the 1980s, the earthquake of the early 1970s, the droughts, the hurricanes, the political corruption, the economic collapse. If we look at the per capita income today, what we find is per capita income in Nicaragua in real terms is still less than 25 percent of the level reached in the 1970s—an absolutely unbelievable figure.

Nicaragua today is still the second poorest country in the hemisphere behind Haiti.

There is something wrong with this picture. Yes, democracy won out in Nicaragua in the 1980s, but the economic environment and political leadership were not stable enough to allow that democracy to fully take hold and thrive. In the recent election, the apparent winner was clearly handicapped by the fact that he had been Vice President for President Aleman, who has certainly been a disappointment to his country and a disappointment to the United States and other people who care about democracy.

We should think about this. Just yesterday that nation, Nicaragua, came all too close to sending Daniel Ortega back to the Presidency, the very leader under whose direction inflation rose as high as 33,000 percent.

Regretfully, the United States has not done as much as we should have over the last decade. We have done some things. We have been involved. We tried to help but, candidly, not as much as we should have. We tried to implement judicial reforms and change in the rule of law, but democracy is not a hobby; it is a lifetime commitment. It is not enough to believe in it; it has to be practiced every day, day in and day out.

Yesterday's elections represent a close call but also a new opportunity for democracy in Nicaragua. I believe the United States must do what we can to help our friends in Nicaragua.

With the election of Enrique Bolanos, we have a unique opportunity to bring about lasting change for the people of Nicaragua. We need to support and work closely with USAID in that effort to create economic and social conditions that will produce a greater margin of safety for the poor. Hurricane Mitch demonstrated how vulnerable the country is to natural disasters. Overall economic losses were estimated at \$1.5 billion.

While growth rebounded to about 7 percent in 1999, low world coffee prices and an internal financial sector crisis caused Nicaragua more than 10-percent drop in GDP in the year 2000. There is an urgent need for Nicaragua to pay systematic and immediate attention to environmental issues and problems, including watershed management, natural resource management, reforestation, and land use. We also need to ex-

pand our food-for-work programs, strengthen our education and training initiatives, and encourage alternative crop development.

Furthermore, we need to foster economic growth by strengthening our microenterprise programs and increasing the number of rural credit unions. I know my colleague in the Chair has been a great supporter of microenterprise programs. They work in Nicaragua as they work around the world. I think we have to do more to promote them.

These are efforts that we have supported in the past, and we need to support in the future. We need to provide individual Nicaraguans the tools to permanently free themselves from poverty. We should also support soon-to-be-President Bolanos in any attempt to scale back some of the electoral and judicial reforms brought about in the late 1999 pact between the Aleman government and the Sandinistas. Specifically, we need to work towards: No. 1, restoring the autonomy of the judicial branch; No. 2, restoring the autonomy of the comptroller; No. 3, reducing barriers for third party participation and increased accountability of the Supreme Electoral Council; and finally, we need to also develop increased accountability of government officials and make aid contingent on a transparent government that proactively works to root out corruption.

Finally, we should take advantage of opportunities for bilateral and multilateral counterdrug operations with the Nicaraguan military. Operations such as these, closely monitored, not only can produce tangible results in the form of interdictions and deterrence but also could help increase the skills and professionalism of the indigenous forces in Nicaragua.

Ultimately, we need to keep a very close watch on the entire hemisphere to see what we can do to help the democratic forces. They need our help. It is in the best interests of the United States to see these countries remain democratic.

We also need to understand how very closely economic progress for the poor is tied to democracy. If we expect democracy to flourish and to grow in our neighbors to the south, it is essential that we do what we can to help their economies grow so everyone in those countries, whether it be Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, or any of our neighbors to the south, anyone who lives in these countries will see they do have opportunity under democracy.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The distinguished Senator from Michigan.