



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 147

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2001

No. 6

Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, January 8, 2001)

The Senate met at 3:02 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, Sovereign of our Nation and Lord of our lives, we begin this 107th Senate with a renewed commitment of our lives to You. The Senators and all of us who are privileged to work with them turn over to You the control of our lives with fresh dedication. Remind us that we are here by Your choice and permission and that You will provide exactly what is needed to meet the challenges and opportunities of each new day. We thank You for our new President and Vice President and their families. Give George W. Bush and DICK CHENEY Your power to lead wisely, the guidance to know and follow Your will, the courage to call all of us to servant leadership, and the desire to forge strong ties between the executive and legislative branches of our Government. May a bond of mutual trust enable creative dialog and constructive debate that move us forward in dealing with the crucial issues before our Nation.

Lord, there is no limit to what we are able to do through women and men who love You and whose hearts have been galvanized into unity and devotion for America. May it be so now, Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will now read a communication to the Senate.

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 20, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. REID thereupon assumed the chair as the Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

NOTIFICATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk concerning the appointment of a new President pro tempore of the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. This resolution is privileged. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 9) notifying the President of the United States of the election of a new President pro tempore.

Mr. ROBERTS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 9) was agreed to.

NOTIFICATION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROBERTS. I now send a second resolution to the desk also concerning the President pro tempore and ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. This resolution is also privileged. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 10) notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a new President pro tempore of the Senate.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 10) was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Carolina, Mr. THURMOND, will be escorted by SENATOR HOLLINGS.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The Senator, escorted by Senator HOLLINGS, advanced to the desk of the Acting President pro tempore; the oath prescribed by law was administered to Senator THURMOND by the Acting President pro tempore.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the following nominations be placed directly on the Executive Calendar, that of Colin L. Powell, Paul H.

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



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O'Neill, Donald H. Rumsfeld, Donald L. Evans, Spencer Abraham, Rod Paige, Anthony Principi, Ann Veneman, and Mitch Daniels.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nominations of Donald H. Rumsfeld to be Secretary of Defense, Colin L. Powell to be Secretary of State, Paul H. O'Neill to be Secretary of the Treasury, Ann Veneman to be Secretary of Agriculture, Donald L. Evans to be Secretary of Commerce, Rod Paige to be Secretary of Education, and Spencer Abraham to be Secretary of Energy.

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

Mr. ROBERTS. I further ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that the nominations be considered en bloc and disposed of en bloc, that each nomination be considered separately in the RECORD, and following the confirmations the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that the President be immediately notified that the Senate has given its consent to these nominations, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President,

I wish the RECORD to reflect that with regard to the nomination of Spencer Abraham to be Secretary of Energy, I am voting in the negative. I appreciate the fact that we need a Secretary of Energy immediately because of the dire energy crisis in the State of California. My objection to Secretary designee Abraham's nomination is based on the troubling record Mr. Abraham has established on nuclear waste. This objection is based on a difference of opinion over this matter. Indeed, I had the honor of serving in this body with Spencer Abraham in his capacity as a Senator from Michigan. I know him to be a decent and honorable man who served with distinction.

As a Senator from Michigan, however, he voted repeatedly to ship nuclear waste to the State of Nevada despite the overwhelming evidence that such a move was being made without regard for sound science and public health and safety. He voted to ship nuclear waste to Nevada notwithstanding the fact that there is no safe route for the transportation of high level nuclear waste through the states and cities and towns of America. He supported an industry backed bill that would have expedited delivery of nuclear waste to Nevada on an "interim" basis. He even supported overriding President Clinton's veto of a bill which would have greatly weakened the EPA's role in establishing the appropriate radiation standards at Yucca Mountain.

The decision on the designation of a permanent nuclear waste repository

rests with the Secretary of Energy. This decision, and others relating to Yucca Mountain, must be made absent bias. Regrettably, Secretary designee Abraham's record as a Senator and his testimony before the Energy Committee as a nominee lead me to believe that he may not be capable of such impartiality on this very important issue. I withdraw my reservation.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to give my strongest recommendation for the confirmation of the nomination of Donald H. Rumsfeld to be Secretary of Defense.

On December 28, 2000, then President-elect Bush announced his intention to nominate former-Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, a man I have known for more than 20 years, to be his Secretary of Defense. I support this nomination, and I am pleased that the President decided to recommend him for this important position.

Don Rumsfeld served as Secretary of Defense for President Ford from 1975 to 1977. I am confident that he will, once again, be a competent, trustworthy, effective Secretary of Defense. He has the experience, knowledge, skill and ability to oversee the best—the largest—military force in the world. His challenge will be to prepare that force for missions in the ever-growing, increasingly complex threat environment of the 21st century. He must "jump start" the pace of transition from cold war thinking to new thinking.

Don Rumsfeld has been extremely successful in the business world in the years since he last served as Secretary of Defense. He has served as the chief executive officer of G.D. Searle and Company, a worldwide pharmaceutical company, and as chairman and chief executive officer of General Instrument Corporation, a leader in broadband and digital, high-definition television technology. While leading these major private-sector businesses, he continued his public service by serving in a variety of Federal posts and as a member of several commissions.

Many Senators are familiar with the excellent work Secretary Rumsfeld has done on both the Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States, which issued its report in 1998, and the Commission to Assess United States National Security Space Management and Organization, which issued its report on January 11, 2001.

President Bush has articulated a vision for the U.S. military and has set three broad goals for national defense: first, to renew the bond of trust between the President and the military; second, to defend the American people against missiles and terror; and third, to begin creating the military of the next century. I know that Don Rumsfeld is committed to these goals as well.

In a speech at the Citadel in September 1999, then-Governor Bush said, "Those who want to lead America accept two obligations. One is to use our military power wisely, remembering

the costs of war. The other is to honor our commitments to veterans who have paid those costs." I doubt that any Member of the Senate would take exception with those obligations. Don Rumsfeld will certainly accept these obligations with enthusiasm.

Public service is a demanding vocation for the family as well as the nominee. I want to express my personal appreciation to Mrs. Joyce Rumsfeld for rededicating herself to public service as well. The Nation will never fully appreciate the sacrifices spouses, such as Joyce Rumsfeld, make supporting those who serve our country.

Mr. President, I want to commend my friend and colleague, Senator LEVIN, for the manner in which, as the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he dealt with this nomination. Chairman LEVIN and I worked together very closely as the committee considered the nomination in a deliberate and timely manner.

I support this nomination. I urge my colleagues to support the nomination as well. Secretary Rumsfeld will be a crucial part of the great national security team that President Bush has assembled.

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ann Margaret Veneman, of California, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Donald Henry Rumsfeld, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Defense.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Donald Louis Evans, of Texas, to be Secretary of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Spencer Abraham, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Paul Henry O'Neill, of Pennsylvania, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Colin Luther Powell, of Virginia, to be Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Roderick R. Paige, of Texas, to be Secretary of Education.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I said on January 3 that I intended to savor every one of the next 17 days. And I am pleased to tell you, I did.

In fact, I called my office this morning just to hear the receptionist say—one last time—"Majority Leader's Office." I did it again this morning.

It was an honor to serve as majority leader of this Senate—even if only for 17 days.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, I want to say to my friend, Senator LOTT that if he every needs to take a day off—for any reason—I'll be happy to fill in for him.

I also want to thank my fellow Democratic Senators—particularly our committee chairs.

It's been a while since a Democratic Senator had banged a chairman's gavel around here.