

broad-ranging talents. A former naval aviator, Mr. Rumsfeld ably represented the people of Illinois in the House of Representatives for four terms before joining President Nixon's Cabinet in 1969. He faithfully served this country in a number of capacities, including United States Ambassador to NATO, White House Chief of Staff and, as I noted, the 13th Secretary of Defense under President Ford from 1975 through 1977.

The Pentagon Mr. Rumsfeld presided over in the 1970s was very different from the one he will inherit today. Then, the world was divided by cold war and our nation was divided by the Vietnam war. Stung by the lessons of Vietnam, the efficacy of our military was in question. Today, the United States stands as the fortress of democracy and a compassionate champion of peace and freedom in an evolving global environment. Our military is the best equipped, the best trained and the most capable fighting force in the world. The difference between the two eras is profound, but let there be no question: this Secretary of Defense is the right person for today and the days to come.

We face the world with strength and confidence, ever mindful of the challenges ahead. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the threat of cyber-terrorism, the potential vulnerability of our space-based assets, and the future of theater-wide and global missile defense are among our present and future challenges that will require innovative solutions. The health and well-being of our troops and their families, and our ability to train and retain the brightest and most talented personnel are persistent concerns that deserve close attention. Our commitment to maintaining a technological advantage on the battlefield and equipping our troops with the most advanced, reliable, and effective weaponry available must never waver. And we must achieve these objectives while providing the Navy with the resources to carry out its expanding and accelerating mission, transforming the Army into a more lethal and mobile force, building the Air Force's next generation air-superiority fighter and air-lift capacity, and maintaining the budgetary responsibility that has yielded America's strongest fiscal footing in a generation.

At this moment of transition, I would also like to commend the outgoing Secretary of Defense, William Cohen, on a job well done. He was called "the right person to secure the bipartisan support America's armed forces must have and clearly deserve," by President Clinton in 1997, and I believe his record of service confirms those remarks. Secretary Cohen focused on force modernization and troop readiness, and he made improving conditions for the fighting men and women of this nation the touchstone of his tenure.

Secretary Rumsfeld will have a difficult act to follow. The challenges

ahead are many. The course laid out by President Bush is neither quickly achieved nor easily traversed, but it gives me confidence to know that Donald Rumsfeld has answered the call to serve this nation once more.

I would also like to express my appreciation to his wife, Joyce, and the Rumsfeld family for the countless sacrifices they will make in course of his term.

In Secretary Rumsfeld, we have found the right person for the job. I look forward to working with him.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I had the honor of introducing my distinguished colleague from the Land of Lincoln, Donald Rumsfeld, to the Armed Services Committee for his confirmation hearing just a little over a week ago.

I know that Presidents have often complained about the Senate confirmation process. Herbert Hoover, upon the birth of his granddaughter, said "Thank God she doesn't have to be confirmed by the Senate." Donald Rumsfeld has so much experience, I am sure he will secure even more votes for his confirmation today than President Hoover's granddaughter would have if she had required the Senate's blessing.

Don Rumsfeld's resume is impressive: 4-term Congressman from Illinois, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, US Ambassador to NATO, White House Chief of Staff, the youngest-ever Secretary of Defense, CEO of several major companies, and a Special Envoy for President Reagan.

We've heard a lot about bipartisanship lately. When Donald Rumsfeld represented Illinois in the House of Representatives, it was before Supreme Court cases that applied the one-person one-vote standard to the drawing of congressional districts. His district was enormous; he represented 1.1 million people, whereas Sam Rayburn only represented 89,000. In the Congress that followed his departure to serve in the Nixon administration, his district was split into two, with one district represented by a conservative Republican and one by a liberal Democrat. His ability to serve such a diverse district speaks well of his ability to bridge a Congress and a country almost equally divided.

While all Senators may not agree with Mr. Rumsfeld on every issue, he has earned our respect. I may disagree with him on the deployment of a national missile defense system, depending on the plan he supports. I certainly disagree with him about the importance of continuing to adhere to the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. I believe the treaty remains the cornerstone of strategic stability, where he dismisses it as "ancient history." However, I am certain that he will conduct a thorough and fair review of these issues as Secretary of Defense. It is my hope that we can keep the lines of communication open on these and other important defense issues as we address them in the Senate.

In fact, Senators may be reluctant to "go to the mat" with Mr. Rumsfeld. Not only was he captain of Princeton University's wrestling team and All Navy Wrestling Champion, he was also inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum. He joins Speaker HASTERT as another famous wrestler who hails from Illinois. I, for one, plan to keep in mind that wrestling depends on strategy and making the right move at the right time as much as it does on strength and power.

Some of his critics have complained that Mr. Rumsfeld's experience with defense issues is from the bygone cold war era. Those critics ignore Mr. Rumsfeld's valuable contributions chairing several commissions, including the Ballistic Missile Threat Commission, and underestimate the value of his experience managing major corporations in this new economy. Mr. Rumsfeld has kept up and I would challenge his critics to try to keep up with him.

In 1775, in our revolutionary era, Patrick Henry said: "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know no way of judging of the future but by the past."

It is only because the United States was so steadfast in fighting for freedom and democracy that the world enjoys an unprecedented era of freedom and prosperity today.

Mr. President, Mr. Rumsfeld carries the lamp of experience. I wish him, for our country's sake, every success as he travels by its light. It is with pride that I cast my vote to support the nomination of one of Illinois' favorite and most distinguished sons.

NOMINATION OF RODERICK PAIGE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, all of us are pleased that the nominee for Secretary of Education, Dr. Roderick Paige, will be confirmed with unanimous bipartisan support. I'm optimistic that his bipartisan confirmation will set a high standard for bipartisan cooperation on education in the coming years.

The issue is of profound importance for the future of our country. Education is a continuum that begins at birth and continues through college and in the larger working society. States and communities are making significant progress in improving their public schools, and that is evident in the city of Houston under the leadership of Dr. Paige. But we know that more needs to be done. Public schools across the nation are facing ever greater challenges. This year, elementary and secondary schools confront record enrollments of 53 million students, and by all estimates, the number of school-age children will continue to increase steadily over the next decade and beyond.

As schools and communities struggle to educate millions more children, they also face the difficult challenges of achieving higher standards of learning, and dealing with other problems

such as overcrowded classrooms, a shortage of qualified teachers, increased safety concerns, and a lack of adequate after-school programs. Schools cannot face these challenges alone. They need the help of their communities, their States, and the Federal Government to provide the best possible opportunities for all children. We must invest in critical national priorities and target funds to the neediest students. That means investing in better teachers, smaller classes, safe and modern facilities, better after-school programs, and programs to help children obtain the literacy skills they need. And that literacy training needs to begin in the very early years, long before a child first walks through the schoolhouse door.

As we increase support for proven effective reform in each of these areas, we must also increase accountability. At the same time, we can't afford to undermine the Federal investment in education by adopting block grants to States in ways that would undermine local control, reduce targeting to the neediest children, put too little emphasis on what works, or eliminate accountability for results. Above all, we must not undermine public schools through private school vouchers. Block grants and vouchers have not been proven effective. They are divisive issues that lead to needless partisan conflict.

Genuine reform of public schools requires bipartisan consensus on targeted top priorities. At his confirmation hearing, Dr. Paige testified that if a strategy had been proven effective in helping to improve public schools and student achievement, he will consider it as a potential Federal investment. I hope that all of us in Congress hold ourselves to the same standard. We know what works to help children do well in school. We need to do more to help schools implement these strategies.

When President Bush submits the details of his education proposals, I am hopeful that we will find many areas of strong bipartisan agreement on reforms such as increased accountability, better targeting of resources to the neediest students, placing a qualified teacher in every classroom, improving children's reading skills, making each school a safe learning environment for students and teachers, and ensuring that all children with disabilities get a good education too. We can also strengthen our commitment to make college affordable for every qualified student in America. With over 15 million students enrolled in higher education today, we must continue to invest in student loans, and ensure that students continue to obtain the low cost loans they deserve.

But for the neediest students, loans are often not enough. The prospect of a mountain of debt is often impossibly intimidating. We need to focus on grants as well as loans, so that we can open the doors of college to millions

more students. In 1980, the proportion of grants to loans in Federal college aid was 60-40. But today, it is just the reverse—40-60. Pell grants, supplemental educational opportunity grants, and campus-based aid offer students and institutions the flexibility they need to help every student make college a reality. But by shortchanging these grants, we are shortchanging students—and shortchanging America too. I am hopeful that we will continue to support college opportunity programs in the Nation's public schools—to make sure that all children can see college as a realistic possibility for their own future. We need to give more students the tools and the will to rise out of poverty, and to enter the workforce with the ability that comes from a good education.

Dr. Paige has an impressive background to help the nation meet all these challenges. He currently serves as superintendent of the Houston Independent School District. He has often been credited for turning the Houston schools around and raising education standards in the city. He was also dean of the College of Education at South Texas University, and he knows firsthand what it takes to bring qualified teachers into every classroom. He comes from a family of educators who share a deep commitment to helping all children do well. I look forward to working closely with Dr. Paige and President Bush in the coming years to meet these high priorities. I congratulate Dr. Paige on his nomination, and I urge the Senate to support his confirmation.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President. I rise to support the nomination of Dr. Roderick Paige as Secretary of Education. Education is "the hub of the wheel" of our society, founded as it is on the principle of equal opportunity. If we succeed in making our education system as good as it can be, there is no national priority that will not benefit. If we do not succeed, we leave things to change. So, I believe that Secretary of Education is one of the most, if not the most, important positions in the President's cabinet. Dr. Paige will succeed Secretary Riley, a remarkable man who has done a remarkable job promoting and improving education for eight years. I was happy to learn at Dr. Paige's hearing before the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee of his close friendship with Secretary Riley, and also was happy, though not surprised, to read in the Washington Post on January 19, that Secretary Riley welcomed President Bush's choice of Dr. Paige.

Dr. Paige comes to the Department of Education with outstanding credentials. He has extensive experience in elementary, secondary, and higher education. From 1994 until his selection as Secretary, Dr. Paige served as Superintendent of the Houston Independent School District. Prior to that, he served as the Dean of the College of Education at Texas Southern Univer-

sity. In recognition of his work in Houston, Dr. Paige was the 2000 National Alliance of Black School Educators' national Superintendent of the Year and is the Texas Association of School Administrators' nominee for 2001 National Superintendent of the Year. In 1999, he was one of the Council of Great City Schools' two Outstanding Urban Educators. To me, what is equally as heartening as all of Dr. Paige's experience and awards is his background. His father was a principal, his mother was a teacher and librarian, and all three of his sisters are educators. I also come from a family of educators. Three of my aunts, my sister, and my brother have devoted decades of their lives to teaching.

As Dr. Paige said at his hearing, the virtues of faith and hard work, love of country, and the importance of the American dream that his parents instilled in their five children gave him the confidence to graduate from a segregated high school, to pursue higher education, and to serve his country in the Navy. When a person grows up in that kind of environment, I know that his commitment to education is heartfelt and deep. Finally, Dr. Paige's experience and commitment to education showed in his statement and answers to questions at his hearing. I was impressed by the breadth of his knowledge and his ability to respond on the spot to such a wide range of questions on so many aspects of education policy.

Of course, my great respect for Dr. Paige's integrity and dedication does not mean that I have no concerns about positions that he has taken during his distinguished career. For example, Dr. Paige supported the use of public funds to pay private school tuition in Houston and supported that at his hearing, as well. There are approximately 53 million children in elementary and secondary schools in the United States—approximately 48 million of those attend public schools. I think that voucher programs, although Dr. Paige chose not to use that term, divert much needed funds from our public schools. I also want to work with Dr. Paige to ensure that Federal funds continue to benefit low-income children. I don't question that most education decisions are and should be made at the State and local level, but excellence in education also is a national priority and the Federal government has a role to play. We provide only about seven percent of elementary and secondary school funding, but we play a very significant role in ensuring that groups that may have less of a voice in funding decisions, such as underprivileged students and their families, receive the resources they need, and I believe that we need to continue doing that.

And I am concerned about President Bush's proposal to move Head Start from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education and change the program's focus to reading. I'm not out to defend

anyone's bureaucratic turf. I'm interested in helping low-income children and their families, not from which building in Washington the program is administered. Since 1965, Head Start programs have provided comprehensive early childhood development, educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services to more than 17 million low-income pre-school children and their families. Dr. Edward Zigler, one of Head Start's founders, said in the December 23, 2000 New York Times that the vast majority of three or four-year olds do not have the cognitive ability to "attribute meaning to abstract symbols, like written words." He added that even the few three or four-year olds who do have that ability are better off spending their time in the Head Start learning behaviors needed in school, like listening, taking turns, and getting along with other children.

Dr. Zigler said that what children need to be prepared to succeed in school are good health, the early involvement of their parents, and relief from the complications of poverty. That's exactly what Head Start provides. Of course, literacy is important, and Congress recognized that when we reauthorized Head Start in 1998—which we did in a very bipartisan manner. No one questions the importance of teaching children to read, but it's not as simple as providing more reading classes. A child won't benefit from reading classes alone if she hasn't eaten breakfast, or has an undiagnosed vision problem, or hasn't learned how to socialize with other children. Those kinds of benefits, which Head Start provides, are not "add-ons" to preparing a child to succeed in school, they are essential to it. As Dr. Zigler said, Head Start's job then, is to lay a foundation for literacy. So, I think we need to be cautious about changing a program that does so much good for so many children and families.

But, that said, I have every confidence in Dr. Paige's qualifications and commitment to America's children. President Bush has spoken often of the need for bipartisanship in Washington. I have worked with many of my Republican colleagues for many years on education policy; for example, with Senator DEWINE on the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, with Senator DOMENICI on character education, with Senator JEFFORDS on 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and with Senator SHELBY on commercialism in schools. I hope and expect that Dr. Paige and the Senate will be able to work together to build on the education accomplishments of the past 8 years, and to work toward the goal that we all share—that our children receive the education they need and deserve.

NOMINATION OF PAUL O'NEILL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to comment on the Senate's procedure for consideration of the nomination of Paul O'Neill for Secretary of the Treasury. Under regular order, the nomina-

tion for Secretary of the Treasury, which is under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee would be considered by the committee after referral to the committee. The process usually involves a hearing and a vote on the nomination. In this case, a hearing in anticipation of the nomination was held. The nomination, however, was not fully considered by the committee. The committee agreed to be discharged only because of highly unusual circumstance. The circumstances arise from the fact that all Senate committees, including the Finance Committee, are not yet composed and organized. Moreover, the Secretary of the Treasury is a critical Cabinet position and expeditious consideration of the nomination is in the best interests of the Nation.

Mr. President, I want to make it clear that the Finance Committee will insist on its jurisdictional prerogatives. This nomination presents a highly unusual and compelling procedural exception.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to enthusiastically support the nomination of Mr. Paul Henry O'Neill to be the 72d Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. O'Neill is no stranger to policymaking, having served a number of years at the Office of Management and Budget. He has impressive credentials, both in and out of government, and an unchallenged reputation for hard work, straight talk and tough-mindedness. He is an extremely strong candidate and a very able individual.

I am also pleased that the Senate will vote today to confirm his nomination. I believe it is important for our country to have a Treasury Secretary in place as the new administration takes over. The next administration will inherit the strongest economy in a generation, and the Treasury Department will face extraordinary challenges in keeping the economy going. Eight years ago, the nation's economic growth was low, interest rates and unemployment were high, and Federal budget deficit and national debt was growing at an unfathomable rate.

Today, we have experienced the longest economic expansion in history, with record low unemployment, low interest rates, higher family incomes, and record budget surpluses. Inflation is in check, and we are beginning to pay down the national debt—something I know Mr. O'Neill has advocated. Putting the nation's fiscal house in order didn't happen overnight. Nor did it happen by chance—tough decisions were made and difficult votes taken.

In light of this, I am concerned about how we handle the upcoming debate about the budget and taxes. We should proceed carefully, and make certain that our decisions do not put in jeopardy the accomplishments made over the past 8 years. In any event, with Mr. O'Neill, the President and the country have found the right person for the job. Mr. O'Neill has my support, and he has my vote. I look forward to working

with Secretary O'Neill, and the new administration, to address the many challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the American economy has changed dramatically in the past decade. International economic policy now has a direct effect on our domestic economy. The information age has transformed America's economic future. Budget surpluses now suggest the very real possibility of paying down the national debt. This new economy requires a new kind of Treasury secretary. It requires someone who is experienced and knowledgeable in both the domestic and the international marketplace. It requires someone who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in both government and private enterprise. Experience and leadership Paul O'Neill will bring these vital skills to the Department of Treasury.

Paul O'Neill's outstanding career in both the public and private sectors has clearly demonstrated his ability to serve as our Nation's next Treasury Secretary. In 1967, he stated as a policy analyst for the Office of Management and Budget. However, his skill and intelligence were quickly noted by OMB Director George Shultz, who promoted him to serve as Associate Director with responsibility for social programs. At OMB, Paul O'Neill gained a reputation for his sharp analysis and his keen understanding of a wide variety of issues. In fact, he displayed such strong leadership and gained such respect from both parties that in 1976, President Jimmy Carter asked him to serve as his Deputy Treasury Secretary. However, Paul O'Neill decided to continue his career in the private sector. He went to work for the International Paper Company, a global paper corporation, of which he eventually became President. In 1987, he became the chairman and chief executive of the Alcoa Corporation, where he has worked since.

Paul O'Neill's service to Alcoa is a shining symbol of his outstanding abilities. His vision and hard work transformed the troubled industrial company into a profitable international enterprise. As chief executive, he embraced new technologies and gave Alcoa the ability to prosper in the new economy, even as the national aluminum industry was facing economic troubles. Most importantly, Paul O'Neill demonstrated his leadership at Alcoa by garnering the respect and trust of his employees. In fact, the President of the Untied Steelworkers of America praised his nomination and called him "a man you can trust and believe." I am certain that his integrity and leadership will earn Paul O'Neill the trust of the American people and of the world's economic leaders.

In recent years, Paul O'Neill dedicated his time to leading several commissions on improving health care, education, and the local government of his hometown, Pittsburgh. Our nation