

prerogative as majority leader to lift the hold.

I shared with Mr. Griles that I was going to vote against his nomination because of his history. I am glad that I was in this Chamber to hear my friend from Alaska so that he could hear from his colleague from Florida as to exactly what my intention on the substance of the matter has been.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on this nomination?

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am glad we are finally considering the nomination of Steve Griles. It has been a long time. I can remember going through the hearings on the Energy Committee and him being reported out of that committee on the 23rd. It has been a long 40-some-odd days. It has been too long.

It seems that we are asking our Cabinet Secretaries to do their jobs by themselves. We are having a hard time getting them any help downtown. I just think that is a wrong thing to do to any administration.

I remember when President Clinton first came to town back in 1992, 1993; whenever we went through the process, I always took the position that each President got his Cabinet members and the people he wanted in his administration because he had been duly elected by the people of this country. So he could move his agenda as he saw fit. We have been holding up folks going downtown far too long.

Twenty-eight percent of Montana is public land. With the BLM and the Forest Service and, of course, with the BIA and the Indian lands and Indian country, this position is very important. Of course, with Mr. Griles coming from a standpoint of multiple use, single use does not work. I think that we can balance the use of our lands. We have had a tendency in the last 10 or 15 years to redefine conservation. Conservation is the wise use of any resource. That has been the driving force on any of our resources found on our public lands and on our private lands.

I have an agricultural background. This position in the Department of the Interior requires a man of not only high integrity and high purpose but also to have guts enough to make a decision. We have gone through these situations where nobody wants to make a decision.

We had a situation on the Flathead Lake in just finding its level. We had too many cooks in the kitchen and nobody knew who was in charge when trying to make a decision on what level we wanted to maintain at Flathead Lake in northwestern Montana.

I know there are some of my colleagues in this body who have some real heartburn with Mr. Griles. In fact, I know there are many colleagues in this body who have heartburn with the words “multiple use.”

But, nonetheless, we who come from the land and the resources—and espe-

cially from a resource-based economy—think we understand just how important renewable resources are. We realize that in oil and gas, it is sort of finite—there may not be any more of it made. But on renewables, we should be using conservation practices that consider wise use.

Tough decisions will have to be made by the Department. We need someone who is confident in making them and also basing the decisions on science and common sense.

So the reason I support Steve Griles is because he brings outstanding credentials to the job. He served at many levels, both inside and outside of Government. I think everybody will find he will be an able listener, and he will also show the cooperation in being a good Deputy Secretary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the nomination?

Mr. BURNS. Are we ready to vote?

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Yes.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I urge that this nomination be confirmed as Deputy Secretary, and on a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the nomination?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of J. Steven Griles, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

THANKING THE MANAGERS OF INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the Presiding Officer is in the Chamber, I rise to express how much I appreciate his work of the last 2 days. It has been very difficult.

He and I worked together on Military Construction when I was chairman and he was ranking member. Through each ordeal we experience we become closer, and I have become more appreciative of his legislative abilities.

For both of us to be able to work with one of the legends of the Senate, Senator BYRD, is always a pleasure and a learning experience. I want to make sure that spread on the RECORD is my appreciation for the good work done by the two managers of this bill.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to consider the nominations reported earlier today by the Foreign Relations Committee as follows: Peter R. Chaveas to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone; Lori A. Forman to be Assistant Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development; Aubrey Hooks to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Donald J. McConnell to be Ambassador to the State of Eritrea; Nancy Powell to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana; George McDade Staples to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon and to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; that the nominations be confirmed, and the motions to reconsider laid on the table.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Peter R. Chaveas, of Pennsylvania, 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 Sierra Leone.

Lori A. Forman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Donald J. McConnell, of Ohio, 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 State of Eritrea.

Aubrey Hooks, 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 Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, 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 Ghana.

George McDade Staples, of Kentucky, 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 Cameroon, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider and confirm Executive Calendar Nos. 199, 200, 203 through 210, 213, 214, 221 and 222, that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Douglas Jay Feith, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Peter W. Rodman, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Thomas P. Christie, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

Diane K. Morales, of Texas, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness.

Steven John Morello, Sr., of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army.

William A. Navas, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Michael Montelongo, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Reginald Jude Brown, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

John J. Young, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Michael W. Wynne, of Florida, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

Dionel M. Aviles, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Jessie Hill Roberson, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Joseph J. Jen, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research Education, and Economics.

James R. Moseley, of Indiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the following nominations reported earlier today by the Energy Committee: Patricia Lynn Scarlett to be Assistant Secretary of Interior; William Gerry Myers III to be Solicitor of the Department of Interior; Bennett William Raley to be Assistant Secretary of Interior; Vicky A. Bailey to be Assistant Secretary of Energy; Frances P. Mainella to be Director of the National Park Service; John W. Keys III to be Commissioner of Reclamation; that the nominations be confirmed, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Patricia Lynn Scarlett, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

William Gerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Bennett William Raley, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Vicky A. Bailey, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs and Domestic Policy).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Frances P. Mainella, of Florida, to be Director of the National Park Service.

John W. Keys, III, of Utah, to be Commissioner of Reclamation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from consideration of the following nominations:

Grover Whitehurst, to be Assistant Secretary of Educational Research and Improvement; Susan B. Neuman, to be the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education; Rebecca Campoverde, to be the Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs; Robert S. Martin, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services; that the Senate proceed to their consideration, en bloc; that they be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be laid on the table; that any statements on any nominations confirmed today appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD; that the

President be immediately notified of all the Senate's actions, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Grover J. Whitehurst, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education.

Susan B. Neuman, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

Rebecca O. Campoverde, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Robert S. Martin, of Texas, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

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

BELJING'S BID FOR THE OLYMPICS

Mr. WELLSTONE. The International Olympic Committee is going to announce tomorrow which country will host the 2008 summer games. The competition is fierce. Toronto and Paris are serious contenders. Yet it seems likely that Beijing will get the prize.

I will speak briefly about this decision because I think there should be some discussion on the Senate floor and the implications. I believe China's authoritarian and oppressive government should not be granted the privilege of hosting the 2008 games. The current Government in Beijing does not deserve the international legitimacy and the spotlight that this honor bestows. Its chronic failure to respect human rights violates the fundamental spirit of the Games, and I think it should disqualify Beijing.

Many of my colleagues argue that human rights should never be a consideration in determining our trade relations with other countries. I don't agree. I do think a government's record on human rights should not be ignored with respect to choosing the site for the Olympics which confers enormous prestige on the host government and which is intended to celebrate human dignity and achievement.

I have a sense-of-the-Senate amendment because the feeling was it would be inappropriate to do it on an appropriations bill. I do not believe doing it

that way gets the support that it deserves. I know there are Senators who argue that to say the Olympics should not be in China is to politicize this question. If we are silent about this and Beijing hosts the Olympics, we are making a political statement. The political statement we are making is their violation of human rights does not matter.

Either way, it is a political statement. I prefer to speak out for human rights. The Olympics are first and foremost about sports and the joy of athletic competition, but human rights and dignity are also central to the Olympic ideal. The Olympic charter makes clear "respect for universal fundamental ethical principles" are central to the Olympic ideal.

Look at the State Department report. China's Government record has worsened as it committed "numerous serious abuses" from raiding home churches, imprisoning Tibetan monks and nuns, locking up Internet entrepreneurs, silencing democracy activists, and cracking down on Falun Gong."

The Chinese Government continues to hold a number of American scholars on suspicious charges of spying. Dr. Gao Zhan has not been allowed to contact her husband, her 5-year-old child, both American citizens, or her lawyer or the State Department.

This doesn't matter? Moreover, hundreds of thousands of people languish in jails and prison camps merely because they dared to practice their Christian or Buddhist or Islamic faith. These are the facts. Respected international human rights organizations have documented hundreds of thousands of cases of arbitrary imprisonment, torture, house arrest, or death at the hands of the Government. That is a fact.

What they have done, the brutal crackdown on the Falun Gong is unbelievable. This is a harmless Buddhist sect. According to international media reports, approximately 50,000 of these practitioners have been arrested and detained, more than 5,000 have been sentenced to labor camps without a trial, and hundreds have received prison sentences after sham trials, show trials. Detainees have often been tortured and scores of practitioners of this faith have died in Government custody. These are facts. This is the empirical evidence. Millions of others have been persecuted for so-called crimes such as, if you are ready, advocating for political pluralism and the ideals of democracy. Hundreds continue to languish in jail under a "counterrevolutionary" law which the Government repealed 3 years ago. Some of them are survivors of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

While China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights—I remember the Clinton administration has made such a big deal of this—the Chinese Government has not