

The yeas and nays have been ordered and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) would vote "nay".

The PRESIDING OFFICE (Mr. CHAMBLISS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 42, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 224 Leg.]

YEAS—42

Alexander	DeWine	McCain
Allard	Ensign	McConnell
Allen	Enzi	Miller
Bennett	Fitzgerald	Murkowski
Bond	Frist	Nickles
Brownback	Graham (SC)	Roberts
Bunning	Grassley	Shelby
Burns	Gregg	Smith
Chafee	Hagel	Stevens
Chambliss	Hatch	Sununu
Cochran	Inhofe	Talent
Cornyn	Kyl	Thomas
Craig	Lott	Voinovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner

NAYS—52

Akaka	Dole	Mikulski
Baucus	Domenici	Murray
Bayh	Dorgan	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Durbin	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Feingold	Pryor
Boxer	Feinstein	Reed
Breaux	Harkin	Reid
Campbell	Hollings	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Hutchison	Santorum
Carper	Inouye	Sarbanes
Clinton	Johnson	Schumer
Coleman	Kennedy	Sessions
Collins	Kohl	Snowe
Conrad	Landrieu	Specter
Corzine	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Daschle	Leahy	Wyden
Dayton	Levin	
Dodd	Lincoln	

NOT VOTING—6

Byrd	Graham (FL)	Kerry
Edwards	Jeffords	Lieberman

The Amendment (No. 914) was rejected.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the yeas and nays on the Specter amendment.

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

The question is on agreeing to the amendment numbered 905.

The amendment (No. 905) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the committee substitute, as amended.

The committee substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the House companion bill.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2115) to amend Title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the text of the Senate measure is inserted in lieu of the House language and the bill is read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the next vote, final passage of the FAA reauthorization, will be the last vote of the evening. We will have a vote tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

After that 10 a.m. we will not have further votes until Tuesday. No votes on Monday. We will be going to Medicare prescription drugs on Monday. We will come in early afternoon on Monday for opening statements. We will have no votes on Monday. I believe that is pretty much it for the schedule.

Later tonight, after talking to the Democratic leader, if there is any change in the schedule, we will let people know. The next vote is the last of the evening and we will vote at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I ask for the yeas and nays on final passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) would vote "yea".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 225 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Akaka	Coleman	Grassley
Alexander	Collins	Gregg
Allard	Conrad	Hagel
Allen	Cornyn	Harkin
Baucus	Corzine	Hatch
Bayh	Craig	Hollings
Bennett	Crapo	Hutchison
Biden	Daschle	Inhofe
Bingaman	Dayton	Inouye
Bond	DeWine	Johnson
Boxer	Dodd	Kennedy
Breaux	Dole	Kohl
Brownback	Domenici	Kyl
Bunning	Dorgan	Landrieu
Burns	Durbin	Lautenberg
Campbell	Ensign	Leahy
Cantwell	Enzi	Levin
Carper	Feingold	Lincoln
Chafee	Feinstein	Lott
Chambliss	Fitzgerald	Lugar
Clinton	Frist	McCain
Cochran	Graham (SC)	McConnell

Mikulski	Roberts	Stabenow
Miller	Rockefeller	Stevens
Murkowski	Santorum	Sununu
Murray	Sarbanes	Talent
Nelson (FL)	Schumer	Thomas
Nelson (NE)	Sessions	Voinovich
Nickles	Shelby	Warner
Pryor	Smith	Wyden
Reed	Snowe	
Reid	Specter	

NOT VOTING—6

Byrd	Graham (FL)	Kerry
Edwards	Jeffords	Lieberman

The bill (H.R. 2115), as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendments and requests a conference with the House.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. CHAMBLISS) appointed Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. BREAUX conferees on the part of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar:

No. 223 and on the Secretary's Desk, PN443 and PN182.

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

NOMINATION OF JOHN W. WOODCOCK TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, Executive Item No. 223 is the nomination of John Woodcock to be a District Judge for the District of Maine. I am very pleased to rise tonight to speak on his behalf. Maine's senior Senator, Olympia Snowe, and I are very proud to have recommended John for this prestigious position on the Federal bench.

I have known John Woodcock for many years. John, in fact, recruited me several years ago to serve as a trustee on the board of the Eastern Maine Medical Center, which he has chaired for 23 years. This is typical of John's service to his community. He has devoted countless hours volunteering his time and energy to his alma mater, Bowdoin College; Eastern Maine Charities; the Maine State Commission on Arts and Humanities; the Good Samaritan Agency; and the Bangor Children's Home, to name just a few.

The Woodcock family has a proud tradition of public service that spans generations. In fact, two of John's sons have served as members of my staff.

Jack currently serves on my Governmental Affairs Committee staff, while Patrick works as a college intern in my Bangor office. I once remarked to John—and repeated it at the Judiciary Committee hearing, which the Presiding Officer chaired that day—that his sons' hard work and professional demeanor were proof that the apple does not fall far from the tree. After the hearing, John wrote to me, in his typically gracious and unassuming and self-effacing way, and said in his mind the tree has always been his wife, Beverly.

Let John's modesty hide his extensive accomplishments, let me take just a moment to share with my colleagues his qualifications to be a Federal judge.

John began practicing law nearly 30 years ago and has built a distinguished career as a litigator. He has served as an assistant district attorney for the State of Maine and has worked in private practice as an associate and as a partner of several law firms in the great State of Maine.

In 1991, he joined several colleagues to form the Bangor law firm of Weatherbee, Woodcock, Burlock & Woodcock.

During his career, John has served as lead counsel in 47 separate appeals to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court on issues ranging from trust law to criminal law.

John has also taken an active role in improving the standards of the legal profession, serving, for example, on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court's Advisory Committee on Professional Responsibility. As a member of this committee, John worked to draft a series of aspirational goals to help guide lawyers who elect to advertise with their professional obligations in this area.

Those of us who are familiar with John Woodcock's sterling character and stellar legal career were not surprised when the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated him as "well qualified"—the highest possible rating. Indeed, it would be difficult for Senator SNOWE and I to come up with another candidate better suited to serve as a Federal judge in the State of Maine.

The Senate Judiciary Committee also voted unanimously to approve his nomination on June 5.

Mr. President, John has the legal excellence, the temperament, and the integrity to serve on the Federal bench. I have every confidence he will faithfully follow the law as interpreted by higher courts and that he will bring justice to the parties before him.

I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support John Woodcock's nomination for a Federal district court judgeship, and I urge my colleagues, in voting this evening, to confirm this terrific individual.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of Senate confirmation of Mr. John A. Woodcock, Jr. of

Hamden, ME, as Federal judge for the United States District Court for the District of Maine in Bangor.

John's roots run deep in the Bangor community. His family has been there for generations, and John attended John Bapst High School in the heart of downtown. He began his law career in Bangor 26 years ago, and today he is with the Bangor law firm of Woodcock, Weatherbee, Burlock, and Woodcock, having argued 46 cases before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. He has served on the Maine Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Professional Responsibility, while also giving of himself personally to the community.

Indeed, for about 25 years he has served on the board of Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems and is now president of Eastern Maine Medical Center's Board of Directors. Among other involvements, over the last 7 years John has also served as the attorney-coach for the Hampden Academy Mock Trial Team.

Mr. Woodcock is well-qualified for this position, as evidenced by the unanimous decision of the Senate Judiciary Committee to favorably report his nomination to the full Senate on June 5, 2003. Moreover, the American Bar Association unanimously named John as "well qualified"—meaning, "The nominee is at the top of the legal profession in his or her legal community, has outstanding legal ability, breadth of experience, the highest reputation for integrity, and either has demonstrated, or exhibited the capacity for, judicial temperament."

In Maine, the Federal Judicial Nomination Advisory Committee that Senator COLLINS and I assembled—with over 270 combined years practicing law—selected John Woodcock as their top recommendation. And former Senator and Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen has said of John that, "In his years of practice, John has developed a statewide reputation as a skilled litigator and an effective counselor. He has deep experience in litigation at trial and appellate levels and is well regarded throughout the Maine Bar."

As I told the Judiciary Committee when I had the privilege of introducing John to the committee at his hearing on May 22, Maine's U.S. District Court has a long history, as one of the first such courts established in 1789. Should Mr. Woodcock be confirmed, he would become only the 16th judge appointed to the court by the President of the United States over its 213-year history. Moreover, the position for which Mr. Woodcock has been nominated is the lone Federal judge position in northern Maine. With John's record and qualifications, he has the depth of experience, the temperament, and the integrity demanded by the gravity of the office for which he has been chosen. He will uphold and enhance not only Maine's tradition of exceptional trial judges, but he will also reflect the finest ideals and expectations of our Federal judiciary.

As I also told the Judiciary Committee, from a layman's point of view—the best trial judges are distinguished by their ability to balance several, sometimes competitive personal dynamics. They balance broad life exposure with specific courtroom experience, raw legal aptitude with common sense, patience with firmness, and intellectual curiosity with focused decision-making. John Woodcock embodies all of those traits and characteristics, and with his substantial and broad legal and courtroom experience, as well as his keen intellect and perspective, solid character, and outstanding reputation, I am most proud to recommend to my colleagues that he be confirmed as Federal judge for the United States District Court for the District of Maine.

I ask unanimous consent a copy of Secretary Cohen's letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE COHEN GROUP,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2003.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR ORRIN: I have recently learned that John A. Woodcock, Jr., who has been nominated for a U.S. District judgeship for the District of Maine, is scheduled to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary on May 22, 2003. Senator Olympia Snowe recommended Mr. Woodcock for this position in conjunction with the support of Senator Susan Collins.

I have known John Woodcock for many years. He is a native of my hometown, Bangor, and attended my alma mater, Bowdoin College, graduating in 1972. He attended the University of Maine School of Law, graduating in 1976, and has been continuously engaged in the practice of law ever since. In his years of practice, John has developed a statewide reputation as a skilled litigator and an effective counselor. He has deep experience in litigation at trial and appellate levels and is well regarded throughout the Maine Bar.

John has also given his time and energies unstintingly to local civic groups. He has recently completed more than 20 years of service on the board of the Eastern Maine Medical Center, an institution vital to providing quality health care in northern and eastern Maine. John is married to Beverly Woodcock and they have a fine family of three boys, Jack, Patrick, and Chris. Jack now works on the Governmental Affairs Committee for Senator Collins.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Maine has a long practice of excellence in its judicial appointments and the nomination of John Woodcock is in every way consistent with that tradition. I recommend him to you with enthusiasm and without reservation.

With best personal regards, I am
Sincerely,

WILLIAM S. COHEN,
Chairman and CEO.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of John A. Woodcock to be a United States District Judge for the District of Maine. Mr. Woodcock possesses over 25 years of litigation experience and will serve his country well as a Federal judge.

After graduating from the University of Maine Law School in 1976, Mr. Woodcock joined the law firm of Stearns, Finnegan & Needham where he practiced general civil litigation until 1980. From 1977–1978, Mr. Woodcock was a part-time assistant district attorney. While in the district attorney's office, he handled all criminal appeals from two different counties to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and was the lead prosecutor in approximately 20 criminal jury trials. In 1980, Mr. Woodcock joined Mitchell & Stearns until forming the smaller law firm of Weatherbee, Woodcock, Burlock & Woodcock in 1991, where he currently practices general civil litigation.

During his career, Mr. Woodcock has been involved in 47 separate appeals to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court on issues ranging from criminal law to trust law. Mr. Woodcock has volunteered his time as a member of several community boards and he is also the attorney-coach for the local high school mock trial team.

After reviewing his record, the ABA gave Mr. Woodcock their highest rating of unanimously well qualified. The committee also received a letter from former Clinton administration Secretary of Defense William Cohen praising Mr. Woodcock's skills as a litigator. He writes, "I have known John Woodcock for many years. . . . The U.S. District Court for the District of Maine has a long practice of excellence in its judicial appointments and the nomination of John Woodcock is in every way consistent with that tradition."

I will submit a copy of this letter for the RECORD. These are words of high praise and I applaud Mr. Woodcock on his many accomplishments. I am certain he will bring great credit to the Federal bench and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this highly qualified nominee.

I ask unanimous consent that the above-mentioned letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE COHN GROUP,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2003.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
SD-224,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR ORRIN: I have recently learned that John A. Woodcock, Jr., who has been nominated for a U.S. District judgeship for the District of Maine, is scheduled to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary on May 22, 2003. Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE recommended Mr. Woodcock for this position in conjunction with the support of Senator Susan Collins.

I have known John Woodcock for many years. He is a native of my hometown, Bangor and attended my alma mater, Bowdoin College, graduating in 1972. He attended the University of Maine School of Law, graduating in 1976, and has been continuously engaged in the practice of law ever since. In his years of practice, John has developed a statewide reputation as a skilled litigator

and an effective counselor. He has deep experience in litigation at trial and appellate levels and is well regarded throughout the Maine Bar.

John has also given his time and energies unstintingly to local civic groups. He has recently completed more than 20 years of service on the board of the Eastern Maine Medical Center, an institution vital to providing quality health care in northern and eastern Maine. John is married to Beverly Woodcock and they have a fine family of three boys, Jack, Patrick, and Chris. Jack now works on the Governmental Affairs Committee for Senator Collins.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Maine has a long practice of excellence in its judicial appointments and the nomination of John Woodcock is in every way consistent with that tradition. I recommend him to you with enthusiasm and without reservation.

With best personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

WILLIAM S. COHEN.

MR. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we vote to confirm John A. Woodcock, Jr. to a lifetime appointment on the United States District Court for the District of Maine. With this confirmation we will have helped fill the sole vacancy on that court. That vacancy, which arose early this year when Judge Carter took senior status, is important to the people of Maine and New England. I have been glad to work with the Senators from Maine to expedite the confirmation of this nominee and provide bipartisan support. I congratulate the nominee and his family.

The Senate has now confirmed 132 judges nominated by President Bush, including 26 circuit court judges. One hundred judicial nominees were confirmed when Democrats acted as the Senate majority for 17 months from the summer of 2001 to adjournment last year. After today, 32 will have been confirmed in the other 12 months in which Republicans have controlled the confirmation process under President Bush. This total of 132 judges confirmed for President Bush is more confirmations than the Republicans allowed President Clinton in all of 1995, 1996 and 1997—the first 3 years they controlled the Senate process for President Clinton. In those 3 full years, the Republican leadership in the Senate allowed only 111 judicial nominees to be confirmed, which included only 18 circuit judges. We have already exceeded that total by 19 percent and the circuit court total by 40 percent with 6 months remaining to us this year. In truth, we have achieved all this in less than 2 years because of the delays in organizing and reorganizing the Senate in 2001. The Judiciary Committee was not even reassigned until July 10, 2001, so we have now confirmed 132 judges in less than 2 years.

In the first half of this year, the 32 confirmations is more than Republicans allowed to be confirmed in the entire 1996 session, when only 17 district court judges were added to the Federal courts across the nation. In the first half of this year, with 9 circuit court confirmations, we have already exceeded the average of 7 per year

achieved by Republican leadership from 1995 through the early part of 2001. That is more circuit court confirmations in 6 months than Republicans allowed confirmed in the entire 1996 session, in which there were none confirmed; in all of 1997, when there were 7 confirmed; in all of 1999, when there were 7 confirmed; or in all of 2000, when there were 8 confirmed. The Senate has now achieved more in fewer than 6 full months for President Bush than Republicans used to allow the Senate to achieve in 4 of the 6 full years they were in control of the Senate when President Clinton was making judicial nominations. We are moving two to three times faster for this President's nominees, despite the fact that the current appellate court nominees are more controversial, divisive and less widely-supported than President Clinton's appellate court nominees were.

If the Senate did not confirm another judicial nominee all year and simply adjourned today, we would have treated President Bush more fairly and would have acted on more of his judicial nominees than Republicans did for President Clinton in 1995–97 or the period 1996–99. In addition, the vacancies on the Federal courts around the country are significantly lower than the 80 vacancies Republicans left at the end of 1997 or the 110 vacancies that Democrats inherited in the summer of 2001. We continue well below the 67 vacancy level that Senator HATCH used to call "full employment" for the Federal judiciary. Indeed we have reduced vacancies to their lowest level in the last 13 years. So while unemployment has continued to climb for Americans to 6.1 percent last month, the Senate has helped lower the vacancy rate in Federal courts to an historically low level that we have not witnessed in over a decade. Of course, the Senate is not adjourning for the year and the Judiciary Committee continues to hold hearings for Bush judicial nominees at between two and four times as many as it did for President Clinton's.

For those who are claiming that Democrats are blockading this President's judicial nominees, this is another example of how quickly and easily the Senate can act when we proceed cooperatively with consensus nominees. The Senate's record fairly considered has been outstanding—especially when contrasted with the obstruction of President Clinton's moderate judicial nominees by Republicans between 1996 and 2001.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

John A. Woodcock, Jr., of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

AIR FORCE

C-PN443 Air Force nominations (23) beginning EUGENE L. CAPONE, and ending ALLEN L. WOMACK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 24, 2003.

C-PN182 Air Force nominations (104) beginning ELISE A. *AHLISWEDE, and ending PAUL K. *YENTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2003.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 13, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 218, the nomination of R. Hewitt Pate to be an Assistant Attorney General; provided further that the Senate immediately proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination, and that following the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BURMA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last night at about this time we passed a Burma sanctions bill 97 to 1, which I hope sent a strong message to the thugs who are running the country at the moment that someday—and hopefully someday soon—they will have to honor the results of the 1990 election, won overwhelmingly by Aung San Suu Kyi and her party.

As I suspect the military junta may be trying to decipher what took place in Washington yesterday, I thought I would take a moment or two to help them out.

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly condemned and sanctioned the State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, for its May 30 attack against Suu Kyi and her supporters and for its continued repressive actions that violate the human rights and dignity of the people of Burma.

I also had an opportunity to talk today to Secretary Colin Powell, who

is going out to Phnom Penh to the ASEAN Regional Forum next week, and I think they can anticipate a strong message from him when he is out in the region at that time.

Fifty-seven Senators cosponsored the legislation that passed last night to impose an import ban, expand visa restrictions, and freeze SPDC assets in the United States. Ninety-seven Senators voted to repudiate the actions of the Burmese junta.

This was a vote for freedom in Burma that demonstrated unequivocal support for Suu Kyi and all democrats in that country.

The generals in Rangoon should take note that a provision was included in the bill that guarantees that every year Burma will come up for discussion and debate in Congress. Every single year, we will have an opportunity to take a look at the fate of freedom in that country.

It is my hope we will not need that opportunity. It is my hope that Suu Kyi and other democrats will be governing Burma and that the only debate on the floor will be about the level of foreign assistance America should provide to a newly free Burma.

If this hope is not realized, within a year we will again discuss the persistent rapes of minority girls and women, the use of child and forced labor, and the manufacturing and trafficking of narcotics.

If the junta continues its repressive rule, we will again examine the number of political prisoners languishing in Burmese jails, efforts taken to counter an exploding HIV/AIDS infection rate, and opportunities to further democracy and the rule of law throughout the country.

If, however, American leadership translates into a full court press on junta, we might be able to celebrate a new dawn for democracy for the people of Burma.

The comments of Secretary of State Colin Powell in the Wall Street Journal today are both welcomed and promising.

As I indicated earlier, he is going to the ASEAN regional meeting next week, and I think the regime in Burma is going to hear a good deal more about the U.S. position on their behavior and activities.

He said this:

By attacking Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters, the Burmese junta has finally and definitively rejected the efforts of the outside world to bring Burma back into the international community. Indeed, their refusal of the work of Ambassador Razali and of the rights of Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters could not be clearer. Our response must be equally clear if the thugs who now rule Burma are to understand that their failure to restore democracy will only bring more and more pressure against them and their supporters.

Secretary Powell must work tirelessly to secure the release of Suu Kyi and all other democrats who continue to be detained by the SPDC. U.N. Special Envoy Razali's brief meeting with

her does not assuage my fears that she is under intense pressure or that her supporters continue to be tortured or killed. She and her supporters should be released immediately and unconditionally.

In the future, it might behoove Razali to temper his enthusiastic comments to more accurately reflect the climate of fear in Burma. He failed to secure Suu Kyi's release, and I am surprised that he did not say more to condemn the outrageous actions of the thugs in Rangoon.

Let me close by thanking my colleagues—and their staffs—for their support of this legislation. I could ask for no better allies than Senators FEINSTEIN and MCCAIN on this issue, and I look forward to continue to work with them to free Suu Kyi and bring democracy to Burma. Senators FRIST, LUGAR, BIDEN, BAUCUS, GRASSLEY, HAGEL, and BROWNBACK also deserve recognition for their support of freedom in Burma. The people of Burma will count on our support in the future—and we should not, and must not, fail them.

Mr. President, I ask that a copy of Secretary Powell's op-ed and an editorial from today's Baltimore Sun on Burma be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 12, 2003]

STANDING FOR FREEDOM

GET TOUGH ON RANGOON

(By Colin L. Powell)

United Nations Special Envoy Razali Ismail has just visited Burma and was able to bring us news that Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and the leader of a peaceful democratic party known as the National League for Democracy, is well and unharmed. The thoughts and prayers of free people everywhere have been with her these past two weeks. Our fears for her current state of health are now somewhat lessened.

On May 30, her motorcade was attacked by thugs, and then the thugs who run the Burmese government placed her under "protective custody." We can take comfort in the fact that she is well. Unfortunately, the larger process that Ambassador Razali and Aung San Suu Kyi have been pursuing—to restore democracy in Burma—is failing despite their good will and sincere efforts. It is time to reassess our policy towards a military dictatorship that has repeatedly attacked democracy and jailed its heroes.

There is little doubt on the facts. Aung San Suu Kyi's party won an election in 1990 and since then has been denied its place in Burmese politics. Her party has continued to pursue a peaceful path, despite personal hardships and lengthy periods of house arrest or imprisonment for her and her followers. Hundreds of her supporters remain in prison, despite some initial releases and promises by the junta to release more. The party's offices have been closed and their supporters persecuted. Ambassador Razali has pursued every possible opening and worked earnestly to help Burma make a peaceful transition to democracy. Despite initial statements last year, the junta—which shamelessly calls itself the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC)—has now refused his efforts and betrayed its own promises.

At the end of last month, this rejection manifested itself in violence. After the May