

however, our economy and our national security are at risk. We need to move rapidly toward energy independence. Renewable energy and conservation must also play a significant role as, together, we look for ways to diversify our portfolio of energy sources and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. As we work to attain energy independence, we can also strengthen our economy, increase our national security, and protect our air, land, and water.

During Dr. Bodman's confirmation hearing before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I had the opportunity to discuss with Dr. Bodman a few of the many issues affecting Colorado, to which I hope Dr. Bodman will immediately turn his attention upon being confirmed today.

First, Dr. Bodman understands the importance of DOE's environmental cleanup at Rocky Flats, and he assures me that he will continue to make this a priority for the Department until the site is cleaned up and a large portion of it converted to a national wildlife refuge.

The cleanup of Rocky Flats serves as a model for the cleanup of DOE facilities nationwide, and it is therefore important to the people of my State and to the country as a whole for DOE to make its plant closure mission at Rocky Flats a priority and to complete environmental cleanup, waste management, and decommissioning by December 2006.

Second, I specifically requested that Dr. Bodman look into the Department's refusal, so far, to comply with the State of Colorado's institutional control laws, which were passed unanimously by the Colorado legislature and signed into law by our Governor. DOE has refused to put those restrictions in an environmental covenant, as required under State law. DOE has refused to comply with other States' institutional control laws as well. This refusal has raised serious questions about the long-term reliability of the cleanup now underway at DOE facilities across the country.

I strongly urge the Department to adopt a policy to comply with State institutional control laws. These are valid State laws. They enhance the safety of cleanups, and the cost of compliance is minimal. In my judgment, DOE is required to comply with these laws under the Federal Facility Compliance Act.

Dr. Bodman assured me that he would look into this important matter promptly, and I intend to hold him to that promise.

Third, Dr. Bodman pledged his support for the Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO. As you know, Mr. President, NREL is the Department of Energy's primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. I am a proud supporter of NREL and its research projects. Providing NREL with the resources it needs will lead our Nation to greater energy independence and security.

In response to my questions, Dr. Bodman assures me the Department fully supports the construction of NREL's new Science and Technology Facility—the first new research laboratory on the lab's main campus in nearly a decade. The new facility will house key elements of NREL's world-class research in hydrogen and other promising renewable energy technologies and will push the envelope on sustainable, energy efficient building design. Construction of the facility is scheduled for completion in early 2007.

With these and other answers to my questions, I am pleased to vote today in support of Dr. Bodman's nomination to be our country's next Energy Secretary. But I want to make clear that I will continuously work to ensure that Dr. Bodman and the Department of Energy live up to these commitments to Colorado—that is my duty and I intend to fulfill it.

The Congress will work on an energy bill again this year. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and with Dr. Bodman to do everything we can to help develop a comprehensive and sustainable energy strategy that is also protective of a healthy environment in the West and across the country.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today the Senate is expected to confirm the nomination of Samuel Bodman to be the next Secretary of Energy.

As Secretary of Energy, Mr. Bodman will face challenges that are critically important to our economy and our national security. We depend on a stable supply of energy to keep our economy moving. Yet, the United States continues to rely too heavily on oil imports from other parts of the world, especially the Middle East. We import about 55 percent of the oil we consume, and this percentage is expected to increase to 70 percent by 2025. Similarly, we are relying more and more on imports of natural gas. This dependency puts us at a strategic and economic disadvantage. The Secretary of Energy must work with the diverse energy interests, the administration, and the Congress to develop a comprehensive Energy bill that will move us toward energy independence.

The Secretary of Energy position is especially important to North Dakota's energy producers and economy. North Dakota can be a significant supplier of electricity to the rest of the country. My State is blessed with an 800-year supply of lignite coal and the potential to be the biggest wind energy producer in the country.

The main challenge we face is developing a transmission grid that will allow our electricity producers to fully utilize these resources and send power to the rest of the country. We need to invest significant new resources in finding new ways to upgrade and expand our transmission capacity and reliability.

We also need to increase investment in, and more aggressively pursue, the development of clean coal technology. By reducing pollution from coal-burning power plants, clean coal technology will ensure that this plentiful, domestic source of energy remains a vital part of our national energy portfolio.

The nomination of Samuel Bodman is encouraging. Mr. Bodman has proven himself to be an effective manager as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury and Deputy Secretary of Commerce. In addition to his exemplary managerial skills, Mr. Bodman has the background knowledge and intellect to understand the importance of research on, and development of, advanced energy technologies. These technologies, including clean coal technology, will help us meet our country's energy challenges. I look forward to working with Mr. Bodman on the funding and development of grant programs to bring advanced technology to North Dakota's power producers and transmitters.

Today I offer my support for Senate confirmation of Mr. Samuel Bodman as our next Secretary of Energy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

DEATH OF REUBEN LAW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my native State of Nevada has always honored the brave men and women who fight to defend our Nation's freedom.

We have in Nevada a higher percentage of veterans than any other state except Alaska. We are fiercely proud of them, and we recognize that we owe them a tremendous debt.

So today, on behalf of all Nevadans, I rise to honor the life and memory of Reuben Law, who died on New Year's Day in Carson City at the age of 106.

He was a veteran of the First World War . . . one of 4.7 million who served in that conflict.

He was the last surviving Nevada resident who served in that war . . . and one of fewer than 200 surviving World War I veterans in the Nation.

Reuben Law grew up in Minnesota. He was working at a Ford plant in Minneapolis, assembling Model-T Fords, when he as a teenager enlisted in the Army.

He almost died before he ever set foot in Europe. The great influenza epidemic of 1918 was raging, and the flu claimed the lives of more than 60 soldiers on the transport ship that carried him to France.

But Reuben survived, and he served as an Army sergeant in eastern France in 1918 and 1919, transporting supplies and wounded soldiers to a military hospital.

Reuben and some of his buddies celebrated the end of the war by piling into

a truck and riding to the nearby town of Allerey. He would later recall that every girl they passed gave them a kiss, because everyone was so elated.

World War I was a horrible, bloody conflict. It was supposed to be "the war to end all wars." But only two decades later, the Second World War broke out.

Once again, Reuben Law stepped forward. He tried to re-enlist in the Army, but he was in his early 40s, and officers told him he was too old. So he spent World War II as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, piloting patrol boats on the Mississippi River.

Between the wars, and after World War II, he had returned to live in his native Minnesota. He moved to Nevada in 1993.

Even then, Reuben Law wasn't through living. In his mid 90s, he went for rides in a hot air balloon, and he drove a car until he was 101.

Reuben Law spent most of his career working in the Minnesota parks department and a landscape architecture firm. In both jobs, he was able to spend a lot of time outdoors, which he cited as one reason for his longevity and good health.

He also claimed that he had good genes—and I suppose he was right, since his mother and one of his aunts lived to be 109.

Reuben was married twice . . . and he was twice a widower. He was the father of four children.

In my home State, we celebrate each October 31 as Nevada Day. Last October, Reuben Law was a special guest in the Nevada Day parade in Carson City.

Not too long ago, when he was asked about his remarkable life, Reuben quoted a saying from his favorite coffee cup:

I guess I've seen it all, I've heard it all, I've done it all I just can't remember it all.

Reuben Law couldn't remember everything he did in his long, storied life . . . but the people of Nevada will never forget his brave service.

In remembering him, we renew our commitment to honor each one of the brave men and women who put our Nation's security and freedom above their personal interests.

ENSURING COLLEGE ACCESS FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of the Ensuring College Access for All Americans Act. I am pleased to join Senators CORZINE and KENNEDY as a cosponsor.

This legislation would restore cuts to Pell grants, the principle Federal financial aid program for lower income college students. Although the President recently announced his intention to incremental increase the maximum grants available over the next 5 years, his administration has changed the formula for eligibility in a way that pushes thousands of American young people out of the program.

In Illinois, 48,600 students will be affected by this change. That's a lot of

students who are trying to piece together the financial aid package they need to go to school next year. Of those, close to 1,500 young people will entirely lose eligibility for the program. Thanks to the changes made by this administration, students in Illinois will lose \$5.5 million in direct Federal grants for college costs.

I urge my colleagues to keep in mind that 90 percent of Pell Grant recipients are considered low-income. Nearly 1.4 million recipients nationwide will see a reduction or total loss of their Pell grants. The Department's new tax tables will eliminate or reduce aid for 26 percent of all Pell grant recipients. These are kids—students—who with their families are working hard to finance a college education.

The students most affected by these changes are likely to work longer hours, borrow more money, or reduce their academic course load in order to balance any loss of funds. Without grant assistance, low-income students have to rely more heavily on student loans. Pell grant recipients are already four times more likely than all other students to take out loans, and they will graduate with twice as much debt as their peers.

Why is this happening? It has been 17 years since the tax tables were last updated. Yes, we need timely updates, greater accuracy and alignment with current state tax policy, but the administration's proposal does not even reflect current tax levels. Under the updated calculation, families are getting less credit for their state and local taxes at a time when they are actually paying more taxes. The administration's "new" tax tables are based on Fiscal Year 2002 State tax information. According to the National Association of State Budget Officers, though, since FY 2002, states have enacted \$14.1 billion in tax and fee increases. Because the administration's proposal is still based on outdated tax information, it does not take into account these substantial increases in what families are actually paying in State taxes.

The legislation we introduce today restores fairness to the eligibility process. It restores opportunity for the 1.4 million low- and middle-income young people who are registering for classes, paying tuition and buying books at a time when tuition costs are rising exponentially. Let's make sense of the Pell grant eligibility process, protect the modest grant levels available for students, and extend the opportunity that higher education in America provides.

RULES OF PROCEDURE—SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, paragraph 2 of Senate rule XXVI requires that not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress, the rules of each Committee shall be published in the RECORD.

In compliance with this provision, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules

of the Select Committee on Intelligence be printed in the RECORD.

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

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

RULE 1. CONVENING OF MEETINGS

1.1 The regular meeting day of the Select Committee on Intelligence for the transaction of Committee business shall be every other Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

1.2 The Chairman shall have authority, upon notice, to call such additional meetings of the Committee as he may deem necessary and may delegate such authority to any other member of the Committee.

1.3 A special meeting of the Committee may be called at any time upon the written request of five or more members of the Committee filed with the Clerk of the Committee.

1.4 In the case of any meeting of the Committee, other than a regularly scheduled meeting, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify every member of the Committee of the time and place of the meeting and shall give reasonable notice which, except in extraordinary circumstances, shall be at least 24 hours in advance of any meeting held in Washington, D.C. and at least 48 hours in the case of any meeting held outside Washington, D.C.

1.5 If five members of the Committee have made a request in writing to the Chairman to call a meeting of the Committee, and the Chairman fails to call such a meeting within seven calendar days thereafter, including the day on which the written notice is submitted, these members may call a meeting by filing a written notice with the Clerk of the Committee who shall promptly notify each member of the Committee in writing of the date and time of the meeting.

RULE 2. MEETING PROCEDURES

2.1 Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public except as provided in S. Res. 9, 94th Congress, 1st Session.

2.2 It shall be the duty of the Staff Director to keep or cause to be kept a record of all Committee proceedings.

2.3 The Chairman of the Committee, or if the Chairman is not present the Vice Chairman, shall preside over all meetings of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman at any meeting, the ranking majority member, or if no majority member is present the ranking minority member present, shall preside.

2.4 Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, decisions of the Committee shall be by majority vote of the members present and voting. A quorum for the transaction of Committee business, including the conduct of executive sessions, shall consist of no less than one-third of the Committee members, except that for the purpose of hearing witnesses, taking sworn testimony, and receiving evidence under oath, a quorum may consist of one Senator.

2.5 A vote by any member of the Committee with respect to any measure or matter being considered by the Committee may be cast by proxy if the proxy authorization: (1) is in writing; (2) designates the member of the Committee who is to exercise the proxy; and (3) is limited to a specific measure or matter and any amendments pertaining thereto. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

2.6 Whenever the Committee by roll call vote reports any measure or matter, the report of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and the votes cast in