

He and I sat together at the inauguration. We had such a wonderful time visiting about where we were and where we are.

So I would ask all, within the sound of my voice, to pause for a brief moment with our thoughts and, for those who feel it appropriate, our prayers for Senator KENNEDY and his lovely wife Vicki.

(Moment of silence.)

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is very cold in Washington today, but our Nation's heart is warm. From every corner of our country and the furthest crevices of the Earth, people came together at the apex of our democracy to be a part of an American renewal.

President Barack Obama's inaugural address appealed to our better angels, as Abraham Lincoln called them, and our best intentions. President Obama reminded us no matter how daunting our challenges may seem, America always answers the call of history.

The millions who came together, lining our National Mall for miles and miles, were not merely observers to this memorable day; they were participants, ready to work with our new President in service to a common cause.

Our great country is ready to join our new President to answer that call to service. That is why we are in session now, a few short hours after the swearing in. Faced with some of the great challenges of our lifetimes and challenges in the history of our country, there is no time to waste.

In the coming days, weeks, and months, we will work with President Obama and our Republican colleagues to revive our economy, protect homeowners and consumers, bring our country closer to energy independence, strengthen our national security, and improve access to health care and education for all Americans.

These challenges require a President with a full arsenal of tools and experts. President Obama has nominated a Cabinet of exceptionally bright and capable people, as indicated by support from all over America—Democrats and Republicans and Independents talking about these great Cabinet nominees. These Cabinet nominees represent a cross-section of our country, geographically and politically.

So it is up to us, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate, to confirm these worthy nominees quickly so they, along with our new President, can hit the ground running.

I express my appreciation to my distinguished counterpart, Senator MCCONNELL, for working with us today to move on to some of these nominations. For those who are not going to be approved today, we are going to work to approve them shortly.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a document entitled "Em-

ployment Guidelines for Potential Presidential Appointees in Subcabinet Positions" be printed in the RECORD.

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

EMPLOYMENT GUIDELINES FOR POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES IN SUBCABINET POSITIONS

An individual may be employed as an advisor or counselor to the Secretary prior to announcement, nomination and confirmation but after being selected as a potential nominee.

The advisor/counselor must:

Act in a manner consistent with that of an advisor preparing for additional duties and responsibilities and not presume any authority that could come only as a result of Senate confirmation. For example, do not use the office space, dining facilities, etc. that are available only to a confirmed appointee in that position.

Comply with all applicable ethics rules.

The advisor/counselor may:

Consult within the Department on current policy topics, receive briefings, and become familiar with relevant issues.

Offer informed advisory views on policy issues, but on a strictly informal basis.

The advisor/counselor must not:

Serve as an official Department representative in meetings or on travel.

Have access to classified materials until a security clearance is issued.

Sign any documents that give the appearance of having assumed official duties or take any actions that give the appearance of issuing authoritative guidance. Must not originate an action, receive routing of official actions of the Department or approve/disapprove any actions of the Department. However, the advisor may receive informational copies of action proposals and other official memoranda.

Undertake to hire, transfer, or terminate members of a potential future organization or otherwise reorganize its management. It is permissible, however, to meet and interview applicants and to informally advise confirmed appointees on personnel and organizational issues.

Use the term "designate" prior to nomination by The President of the United States.

Meet with anyone outside the Department unless accompanied by a "reasonable official" of the Department who can speak for the Department. The limited role as a consultant to the Department, and not an official of the Department, should be made clear.

Attend a meeting with a contractor.

Meet with foreign officials or interest groups to any great extent.

Represent or speak for a component of the Department, or a prospective component, in a meeting within the Department.

Meet or speak with the press, other than in connection with the confirmation process and then only after consultation with Public Affairs.

Give speeches or many any appearances outside the Department on any issue relating to the business of the Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider nominations received today: Steven Chu to be Secretary of Energy; Arne Duncan to be Secretary of Education; Janet

Napolitano to be Secretary of Homeland Security; Peter Orszag to be Director of OMB; KENNETH SALAZAR to be Secretary of Interior; Eric Shinseki to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Thomas Vilsack to be Secretary of Agriculture. I ask consent that the Senate proceed to their consideration en bloc; that the nominations be confirmed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order, and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Arne Duncan, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Education.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Steven Chu, of California, to be Secretary of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Janet Ann Napolitano, of Arizona, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Eric K. Shinseki, of Hawaii, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Peter R. Orszag, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

NOMINATION OF ARNE DUNCAN

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am pleased to voice enthusiastic support for the nomination of Arne Duncan to serve as Secretary of Education, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination. Mr. Duncan brings inspiration, dedication, and ability to the field of education, and I am confident that his leadership will help move America forward to tackle the challenges present in our educational system.

Last week, Mr. Duncan appeared before our Education Committee for his confirmation hearing. He was met with broad bipartisan support from members across our committee for his vision and his commitment to move American education forward at all levels—from early education through college.

Mr. Duncan shared with us his very personal connection to the field of education, which first developed with his work alongside his mother in an after-school tutoring program for needy students. Since then, he has worked to confront challenges and advance reforms as head of Chicago's schools. We

are all aware of the demands on superintendents of large city school systems, which is why the average tenure of an urban school chief is less than 3 years. In Chicago, Arne Duncan has given 7. In each of those years, he focused with relentless determination on closing achievement gaps, improving teacher quality, reducing dropout rates, and better engaging communities in schools.

Throughout his career, Arne Duncan has brought an impressive, can-do pragmatism to the complex challenges present in our education system. He is a leader who will bring people together, put children first, support teachers and focus on results. Each of those traits will serve all of us well as he takes the helm of the U.S. Department of Education.

Today's nomination should also remind us all of the importance of education to America's future.

Education is the key to opportunity and a strong economy, and America's schools and teachers are the catalysts for change. The ability of each of our young people to compete and succeed in this new, global economy depends on our ability to ensure that they receive a high-quality education.

Education is also key to our national security. Skills and knowledge are the pathway to protecting America and maintaining our progress in the world.

Most of all, education is key to maintaining America's greatest ideals and values, and to ensuring the vitality of our democracy.

My friend and colleague, the late Claiborne Pell, used to say that the real strength and security of our nation lies in the education and character of our people. Our Founding Fathers agreed, and so did many school reformers after them, from John Dewey to Horace Mann. As Americans, we have an obligation to provide everyone—regardless of their background, economic means, disability, or language skills—with the best possible education that enables them to develop their talents and participate fully and actively in their communities and in their country.

In order to achieve this goal, we need a new, major effort to confront and address the persistent challenges that are present in our educational system. This effort must span from the early years through high school, into college and beyond, and it must focus on building outstanding schools and institutions that deliver opportunity for every American to learn and succeed. Today's inauguration of our President-Elect marks our chance to write a new and better chapter in American education—one that will harness innovation, cultivate solutions, and invest wisely toward reaching our goals.

Our work must begin in the early years, by recognizing that what we do for our children in their first years has a profound impact on their later learning and success. The healthy development of children depends on the rela-

tionships they build with those around them—in any early learning setting.

Today, 38 States support prekindergarten programs for children, and invest more than \$3.7 billion in such programs. More than a million children attend State-funded preschool, comprising 22 percent of all 4-year-olds in the Nation. Nearly 1 million more low-income children are served by the Federal Head Start and Early Head Start programs. And 12 million children under the age of 5 are in some form of child care every week—1.7 million of which receive Federal assistance to attend such programs.

We must focus each of our early learning investments—at the Federal, State, and local level—on a shared goal of school readiness and quality, regardless of the child care center, preschool classroom, or early learning program in which a child participates. In the early years, quality is the key. We need a new effort to build an early education system that provides opportunities for every child to arrive at school ready with the skills necessary to succeed in kindergarten, and with a strong foundation from which to build and grow in their later academic experiences.

In elementary and secondary education, we must strengthen and modernize our public schools, and move quickly to address the inequities in our system that enable persistent achievement and opportunity gaps. No Child Left Behind started us down the road of accountability and high expectations for all students. But we need a new, national strategy to implement the changes needed to better achieve the law's goals.

Any effort at improving public education must begin by supporting and strengthening America's teachers, who reside on the front line of school reform. We need new avenues to attract talented individuals into the teaching profession, and better supports to ensure that they remain in the classroom. We need new ways to encourage our best teachers to serve in the neediest schools, new mechanisms for recognizing and rewarding teacher successes, greater chances for teachers to develop and share their practice, and better opportunities for teachers to become leaders and decisionmakers in their own schools.

We cannot afford for America's students to be outcompeted and outpaced in this 21st century economy. We must support new efforts to increase the rigor and relevance of the school curriculum, more efficient and effective methods of testing and using school data, greater supports for disabled students and English learners, and a better-organized school schedule that maximizes learning time and provides new connections for students to develop knowledge and skills in their communities.

Unlocking the doors of higher education is more important today than ever before, and the dream of a college education should be available to any

student with the talent, desire, and commitment to pursue it. Yet many of America's students still lack the help and assistance they need to prepare for college. A dollar sign still bars the doors of college opportunity for too many. For others, the path to college is blocked by heavy student loan debt and unmet financial need.

In the 110th Congress, we responded to these challenges by enacting the College Cost Reduction and Access Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. We committed to provide an unprecedented lifeline of need-based grant aid to students, to upgrade essential programs that prepare students for college, to reforming our student loan programs, and to simplifying the application process for college aid.

Yet far more remains to be done to address college access and affordability, and to bring the promise of a college degree to many more students. We must make greater strides in expanding the Pell grant for America's neediest students. We need new efforts to ensure that our Federal student aid programs protect students and taxpayers from risk, new mechanisms to contain and reduce soaring college costs, and new efforts to bolster the educational pipeline by strengthening community colleges and investing in college persistence and completion.

In each of these areas—early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, and higher education—there are great challenges to be met. We must forge ahead with an urgency to confront each of them head on, and improve educational opportunities for all Americans.

Today is a great day that reminds us of all that's possible in the days ahead. Our work to help others achieve the American dream begins by improving education across our country. We should each dedicate ourselves to that goal, with a renewed spirit of innovation and a resolve for change. And I believe that Arne Duncan is just the person to lead us forward as our next Secretary of Education.●

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I support the pending nomination of Mr. Arne Duncan to be Secretary of Education. I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Duncan earlier this month, although I have been aware of his work in Chicago for a number of years. What struck me the most is his focus on doing what is best for the children and his belief that every child can succeed regardless of their background.

During his confirmation hearing in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions—HELP—Committee, Mr. Duncan was asked about what he had accomplished in Chicago as the CEO of the Chicago Public Schools. His support for charter schools, public school choice, performance pay for teachers and school leaders was highlighted at the hearing. He described how he had closed low-performing schools in Chicago because they were not providing children the education they needed. He

also spoke of the important role teachers have and how we need not only to attract but retain quality teachers. He believes that children have one chance to get a good education, and as adults we need to make sure they have that opportunity to learn and achieve.

Historically, education has been a bipartisan issue. The HELP Committee has an excellent track record for getting bills passed and signed into law as a result of a strong bipartisan process. Mr. Duncan did not hesitate to commit to establishing and maintaining a cooperative working relationship with all Senators on the HELP Committee, Democrat or Republican, by promptly responding to any written or phone inquiries, sharing information as soon as it becomes available, and directing his staff to do the same. He also agreed that regulations promulgated under his direction should be based on legislative authority. Despite the recognition that it is easier to start something than to end it, he also pledged to target resources on programs that work and to eliminate those programs that don't. The members of the committee were impressed with his answers to our questions, and it was evident from our comments that he enjoys strong bipartisan support. I am hopeful that support will show itself by our vote today.

Mr. Duncan is no stranger to the challenges that he will face as Secretary of Education. He understands the important issues that will affect every child and every schoolroom throughout the United States. His track record with a major urban school district is well known. However, I did caution Mr. Duncan that I will remind him regularly and often of the unique challenges that rural and frontier schools and students face. Congress and the Department of Education need to work together to make sure that every school has the tools and the flexibility needed to help students develop the knowledge and skills required to be successful in the 21st century.

We cannot afford to have students leaving high school—and college—without completing their programs of study. Mr. Duncan and I agree that we have to build upon the successes of No Child Left Behind, coordinate efforts across programs including Head Start, career and technical education and workforce programs under the Workforce Investment Act, and reduce the barriers nontraditional students face to obtaining education that will provide the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the 21st century. Our country's future depends on our ability to reach this goal.

It is no secret—good skills lead to good jobs. Maintaining those skills through a lifetime of learning will lead to a good career. Mr. Duncan understands this and the fact that the workplace isn't what it used to be. In this global, technology-driven economy, school is never out. Today's workplace demands an ever-changing workforce that can adapt to the requirements and

skills of the new high-tech jobs that are in such high demand. Keeping workers' abilities current will be vital if they are to continue to find the kind of good jobs they will need to support their families and maintain a consistently high standard of living. I was pleased to see that Mr. Duncan supports the role community colleges can play in providing this education and training and understands the need to support and accommodate the growing population of nontraditional students in our postsecondary education institutions.

I am pleased to be able to join the distinguished chairman of the committee, Senator KENNEDY, in supporting the confirmation of Mr. Duncan to be the next Secretary of Education. Today, this body has the opportunity to confirm an excellent nominee with the skills, experience, and commitment to help students of all backgrounds throughout their lives achieve their own version of the American dream. By confirming Arne Duncan as the next Secretary of Education I am confident that we will have an effective advocate for education and who will work to meet the lifelong education needs of our children and students of all ages.

I intend to vote in favor of Mr. Duncan's nomination to head the Department of Education, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

NOMINATION OF PETER R. ORSZAG

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to support the nomination of Dr. Peter R. Orszag to be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

As our Nation wrestles with the economic crisis, the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, must be prepared to tackle serious fiscal and budgetary crises. The Federal budget is under stress from the impact of a deep recession and the costs of rescue and stimulus packages. Spiraling, out-of-control health-care costs are driving long-term budgetary imbalances. And the next few years will also see cresting waves of baby boom retirements, with enormous impacts on Social Security and Medicare expenditures, as well as the Federal workforce.

Pointing to these trends and to the estimated \$1.2 trillion deficit for the current fiscal year, President Obama has prudently warned that unless strong measures are taken, the outlook is for "red ink as far as the eye can see." That is, of course, an unacceptable and unsustainable scenario for the Government, for the economy, and for the households and business owners who pay the Government's bills.

OMB is the leading player for the incoming administration as it formulates policy to deal with a grim present and uncertain future. OMB also serves as a critical link between Congress and the executive branch as we work toward a consensus on a sustainable path forward.

Dr. Orszag brings an impressive set of skills and experiences—and apparently

boundless energy—to OMB. As a former Director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, he is familiar with the legislative branch and the intricacies of budgets and policy analysis. Earlier service as an economics adviser in the Clinton administration, as a scholar at the Brookings Institution, and as a consultant will also provide important perspectives.

Dr. Orszag will need to draw on every ounce of his knowledge and experience as he takes the reins of OMB.

Dr. Orszag has already indicated that the economy and stimulus measures portend a near-term rise in the deficit. But as he knows, recent years' outlays and the growth of unfunded entitlements are unsustainable.

We desperately need a realistic plan to avoid having the Federal budget become a mammoth drag on opportunities for job growth and higher personal income—and for people's ability to decide what to do with their own money. The public also expects aggressive oversight and careful stewardship of the Troubled Asset Relief Program and of any future economic-recovery package.

Dr. Orszag will also need to focus intensely on the management challenges confronting the Federal Government. OMB must provide sustained leadership to build upon contracting reforms Senator LIEBERMAN and I championed in the last Congress. Improving transparency and accountability in Government operations and enhancing agency performance will also be Dr. Orszag's responsibility.

These and other pressing challenges will confront Dr. Orszag as Director of Office of Management and Budget. I look forward to working with him as we confront the financial problems our Nation faces.

NOMINATION OF JANET NAPOLITANO

Mr. President, I also support the nomination of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano to be the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

As the Department nears its sixth anniversary, those of us who participated in its creation can take some measure of satisfaction in its progress. The men and women of the Department have helped detect and prevent terrorist attacks.

Our Nation's ability to prepare for and respond to disasters—whether natural or manmade—has also improved dramatically with the changes this committee made in the structure and operations of FEMA. Nonetheless, constantly evolving terrorist threats and the forces of nature demand further improvements at the Department and strong and skilled leadership.

I believe Governor Napolitano will provide that leadership.

I have had the opportunity to closely examine the record of Governor Napolitano and talk with her about a wide range of issues, including security at our borders and seaports, cooperation with State and local law enforcement, and the myriad tests that DHS must confront in the coming years.

The Governor's law enforcement background and knowledge of homeland security issues are impressive.

Her experience as a border-State Governor enables her to bring an important perspective to the Department. Arizona, like my home State of Maine, is a border State with extensive cross-border and tourism. Residents of border communities work, shop, worship, and visit friends and family on both sides of the boundary, complicating the challenge of border security.

Governor Napolitano understands that we have to let our friends in, while keeping our enemies out—enforcing border regulations in a practical manner that accommodates legitimate trade and travel.

One emerging challenge the new Secretary will face is the need to enhance security at the Nation's biological laboratories. The recent report of the Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction predicted a terrorist attack with a biological weapon within the next 5 years. The Commission pointed to lax security at biological labs as one of the bases for that chilling assessment.

Another threat that the Department must address is the security of our Nation's cyber-infrastructure. The Department must fully understand the cyber threat and establish and enforce best practices across the executive branch, as well as redouble its efforts to work with the private sector on cyber-security.

We must also continue to focus on the security and resiliency of our Nation's critical infrastructure. With more than 85 percent of those assets in private hands, this is a daunting task. Seaports and chemical facilities have been made more secure through legislation that I coauthored. In addition to extending these two important programs, the Department must develop a strategy to promote the best practices developed through the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.

In the last 6 years, DHS has helped improve our all-hazards preparedness and response capabilities. Homeland security grant funding for our State and local first responders has certainly played a key role in that effort. Funding levels in the last few years, however, have been under attack from the executive branch, and DHS has not yet fully complied with the requirement to establish an all-hazards risk formula. The Department must also improve information sharing and cooperation with our State and local partners.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency forms the core of the Department's ability to perform its preparedness, response, and recovery missions. After Hurricane Katrina, Senator LIEBERMAN and I authored vital reforms of FEMA. Subsequent disasters like wildfires, tornadoes, and severe storms and floods have demonstrated FEMA's new and improved capabilities, bolstered by increased coordination with State and local governments and military resources.

FEMA's documented improvements and the logical combination of all-hazards prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in a single department underscore the need to keep FEMA within DHS. Detaching FEMA in the vain hope of recapturing mythical halcyon days would weaken its effectiveness, reduce the ability of DHS to carry out its all-hazards planning mandate, cause needless duplication of effort, and foment confusion among State and local first responders during a disaster. That is why our Nation's leading first responder organizations, like the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Congressional Fires Services Institute, the International Association of the Chiefs of Police, and the National Troopers Coalition, all strongly support keeping FEMA as part of DHS.

As a relatively new Department, DHS still suffers from significant integration and management challenges. The effective operation of the Department's 22 legacy agencies requires a strong Departmental culture, close collaboration between the Department's components, and effective cooperation with other Federal, State, local, tribal and private-sector partners. From the Department's program management and resource allocations, to the basic need for a consolidated headquarters, the next Secretary must focus intently on removing obstacles to effective integration and improved performance.

To continue its growth, the Department must have a skilled executive to lead its dedicated workforce. I believe Governor Janet Napolitano has the ability to meet these and other challenges facing the Department of Homeland Security in the years to come. I look forward to working with her and urge support for her nomination.

NOMINATION OF ERIC SHINSEKI

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the nomination of GEN Eric Shinseki for Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

I have three criteria that I use to evaluate all executive branch nominees: competence, integrity, and commitment to the core mission of the Department. Based on these criteria, I wholeheartedly support General Shinseki to be our next Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

In his 38-year Army career, which culminated at Chief of Staff of the Army, General Shinseki was always first and foremost an advocate for the soldiers—he was a soldier's general. As a veteran of combat in Vietnam, during which he suffered life threatening and life altering injuries, General Shinseki understands firsthand the obstacles our returning troops face. He knows what it is like to be made whole again in the military health care system. I know General Shinseki will focus on transforming the Department of Veterans Affairs into an agency for the 21st century with the same fortitude and tenacity he has shown throughout his military career.

This is a critical time for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Historically high percentages of wounded soldiers are surviving their wounds. For this we should be thankful. However, many of them are grievously disabled with debilitating, visible wounds of war, or with equally debilitating wounds that do not bleed—like post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. Our veterans' health systems must be updated and adapted to care for this new generation. Our country has made a 50-year commitment to our wounded warriors to care for them. We must streamline the red-tape that prevents wounded warriors from receiving the care they need. We must shorten the months of waiting for the benefits claims process to unfold. We must better integrate the DOD and VA health care systems to create a single system with uniform rating processes and standards. We owe our veterans nothing less. General Shinseki is the right choice to lead the VA to a higher state of readiness to care for this new generation of veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs challenges don't end with our immediate obligations to our wounded veterans, but must persist in addressing our long-term promises to our veterans. This means maintaining affordable health care for our retired servicemembers. Making it responsive. Providing the best care. Ensuring our promises made are promises kept.

The Department of Veterans Affairs challenges also include aiding members with the transition into civilian life. I am proud of the recent steps we have taken in Congress to help veterans. Last year we passed the post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act to make badly needed updates to the G.I. bill. This legislation will provide educational benefits to help a new generation of veterans and servicemembers so they can better themselves through education, better their ability to serve our Nation as soldiers and citizens, and better provide for themselves and their families. I am also proud of the wounded warrior legislative provisions Congress passed in 2007. These provisions mandated a modernization of the military health care system's approach to post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury care. I will look to General Shinseki not just to ensure the implementation of these groundbreaking legislative accomplishments is a priority, but also to identify meaningful and comprehensive steps to build on this foundation to ensure that our veterans health care system delivers the world class care our veterans have earned.

I look forward to working with GEN Eric Shinseki as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and have full confidence in his honesty, his integrity, and his ability to stand up for our veterans. The next Secretary of Veterans Affairs will face many challenges. I look forward to meeting those challenges with him as he leads the Veterans Affairs Department in this time of change.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, with respect to the nominations confirmed today, I ask unanimous consent that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and that the Senate return to legislative session.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Inaugural Ceremony proceedings be printed in the RECORD.

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

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama, January 20, 2009, 11:30 a.m.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff assembled on the President's platform.

The Diplomatic Corps assembled on the President's platform.

The Governors of the United States and its territories and the Mayor of the District of Columbia assembled on the President's platform.

Members of the 111th House of Representatives of the United States, led by majority whip James E. Clyburn and Republican whip Eric Cantor, assembled on the President's platform.

Members of the Senate of the United States assembled on the President's platform.

Former Speakers of the House of Representatives, Thomas Foley and Newt Gingrich, accompanied by Mrs. Foley and Mrs. Gingrich, assembled on the President's platform.

Former Vice Presidents Walter Mondale, Dan Quayle, and Al Gore, accompanied by Mrs. Mondale, Mrs. Quayle, and Mrs. Gore, assembled on the President's platform.

Mr. William M. Daley, Ms. Penny Pritzker, Mr. John W. Rogers, Jr., Mr. Patrick G. Ryan, and Ms. Julianna Smoot, cochairs of the 56th Presidential Inaugural Committee; and Mr. Emmett S. Beliveau, executive director of the 56th Presidential Inaugural Committee, assembled on the President's platform.

The President-elect's Cabinet and agency designees assembled on the President's platform.

The Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr., and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States assembled on the President's platform.

The 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter assembled on the President's platform.

The 41st President of the United States, George H.W. Bush, and Mrs. Barbara Bush assembled on the President's platform.

The 42nd President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton assembled on the President's platform.

The children of the Vice President-elect, CPT Beau Biden, Hunter Biden, and Ashley Biden, accompanied by House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard, assembled on the President's platform.

Mrs. Marian Robinson and the daughters of the President-elect, Malia and Sasha Obama, accompanied by Assistant Secretary of the Senate Sheila Dwyer, assembled on the President's platform.

The First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush, and the wife of the Vice President, Mrs. Lynne Cheney, accompanied by Secretary Chao, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Boehner, and Republican staff director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Mary Sui Jones, assembled on the President's platform.

Mrs. Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, accompanied by the Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson; the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Lorraine Miller; Mr. Blum, Mr. Pelosi, and Mrs. Reid, assembled on the President's platform.

The President of the United States, the Honorable George Walker Bush, and the Vice President of the United States, Dick Cheney, accompanied by Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Robert Bennett, House Republican leader, Representative John Boehner, and Secretary for the minority David Schiappa, assembled on the President's platform.

The Vice President-elect of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., accompanied by the inaugural coordinator for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, Jennifer Griffith; Senate Deputy Sergeant at Arms Drew Wilson; House Deputy Sergeant at Arms Kerri Hanley; Senate majority leader, Senator Harry Reid; House majority leader, Representative Steny Hoyer, assembled on the President's platform.

The President-elect of the United States, Barack H. Obama, accompanied by the staff director for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, Howard Gantman; the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Terrence W. Gainer; the House Sergeant at Arms, Wilson Livingood; chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, Senator Dianne Feinstein; Senator Robert Bennett; the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi; the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid; House majority leader, Representative Steny Hoyer; House Republican leader, Representative John Boehner, assembled on the President's platform.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President and Vice President, Mr. President-elect and Vice President-elect, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States of America.

(Applause.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. The world is watching today as our great democracy engages in this peaceful transition of power. Here on the National Mall, where we remember the founders of our Nation and those who fought to make it free, we gather to etch another line in the solid stone of history. The freedom of a people to choose its leaders is the root of liberty. In a world where political strife is too often settled with violence, we come here every 4 years to bestow the power of the Presidency upon our democratically elected leader.

Those who doubt the supremacy of the ballot over the bullet can never diminish the power engendered by nonviolent struggles for justice and equality like the one that made this day possible. No triumph tainted by brutality could ever match the sweet victory of this hour and of what it means to those who marched and died to make it a reality. Our work is not yet finished, but future generations will mark this morning as the turning point for real and necessary change in our Nation. They will look back and remember that this was the moment when the dream that once echoed across history from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial finally reached the walls of the White House.

(Applause.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. In that spirit, we today not only inaugurate a new administration, we pledge ourselves to the hope, the vision, the unity, and the renewed call to greatness inspired by the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama.

(Applause.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Thank you, and God bless America.

(Applause.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. At this time I call upon Dr. Rick Warren, pastor of the Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA, to provide the invocation.

Pastor WARREN. Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Father, everything we see and everything we can't see exists because of You alone. It all comes from You. It all belongs to You. It all exists for Your glory. History is Your story. The scripture tells us: Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one. And You are the compassionate and merciful one, and You are loving to every one You have made. Now, today, we rejoice, not only in America's peaceful transfer of power for the 44th time, we celebrate a hinge point of history, with the inauguration of our first African-American President of the United States. We are so grateful to live in this land, a land of unequaled possibility, where the son of an African American can rise to the highest level of our leadership. And we know today that Dr. King and a great cloud of witnesses are shouting in heaven.

Give to our new President Barack Obama the wisdom to lead us with humility, the courage to lead us with integrity, the compassion to lead us with generosity. Bless and protect him, his family, Vice President Biden, the Cabinet, and every one of our freely elected leaders. Help us, O God, to remember that we are Americans, united not by race or religion or blood but to our commitment to freedom and justice for all.

When we focus on ourselves, when we fight each other, when we forget You, forgive us. When we presume that our greatness and our prosperity is ours alone, forgive us. When we fail to treat our fellow human beings and all the Earth with the respect that they deserve, forgive us.

As we face these difficult days ahead, may we have a new birth of clarity in aims, responsibility in our actions, humility in our approaches, and civility in our attitudes, even when we differ. Help us to share, to serve, and to seek the common good of all. May all people of goodwill today join together to work for a more just, a more healthy, and a more prosperous nation and a peaceful planet. And may we never forget that one day all nations and all people will stand accountable before You.

We now commit our new President and his wife Michelle and his daughters, Malia and Sasha, into Your loving care. I humbly ask this in the name of the one who changed my life, Yeshua, Esau, Jesus, Jesus, who taught us to pray: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

(Applause.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I am so pleased to introduce world renowned musical artist Aretha Franklin to sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee." (Performance by Ms. Aretha Franklin.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Please join me in welcoming my colleague from Utah, the Honorable Robert Bennett.

Mr. BENNETT. It is my great honor to introduce Associate Justice of the Supreme