

I think it goes without saying that Governor Huntsman is a man of integrity whose service to the State of Utah has been of great worth. Indeed, what Utah stands to lose from this nomination is exactly what the United States and China stand to gain: a seasoned diplomat, an excellent manager, a qualified politician, and a man who wants the very best for the country he loves and has served for more than 20 years.

It takes great courage for a Republican Governor of one of the reddest, most conservative States in the Nation to accept an invitation to serve under a Democratic President; yet this is the same courage Governor Huntsman has displayed throughout his career. From his time as a staff assistant in the Reagan administration to his work in the trenches at the Commerce Department, Jon Huntsman, Jr., has proved to be an innovative leader, a progressive thinker, and someone who comes to this position at a time when the United States needs an Ambassador to China who will strive to forge the kind of relationships we need to move forward in the globally connected world of the 21st century.

As the Ambassador to China, the challenges before Governor Huntsman will neither be easy nor few. Our relations with other nations are the foundation of peace and stability on the planet. And when Richard Nixon reached out and brought China back into the international system in 1972, a huge structural imbalance in the global system was redressed.

The United States and China are very different countries with vastly different experiences and, based on our very different government structures, very different values. Yet, as we know, our countries have developed complex and mutually beneficial relations. We also know that our nations have great potential for beneficial relations, but, as anyone who studies history and geopolitics knows, we have the potential to clash as China grows and expands its influence. That is why it is important for us today to continue what Richard Nixon started: a world where our countries can exist in peace.

In my years in the Senate, I have seen a huge change in our country's relationship with China. When I came here, President Carter was just finalizing the Nixon initiative, and I led the move to pass the Taiwan Relations Act, which allowed for the United States to continue a supportive relationship with Taiwan even though we had withdrawn our diplomatic recognition. I have seen China evolve from a Maoist totalitarian system to a communist police state that has allowed many personal freedoms and a historic transformation of the economy using capitalist principles. This is a relationship that must be handled by experienced China hands and professionals.

That is why I find it gratifying that President Obama has chosen to go with someone of great experience and abil-

ity—Governor Huntsman. I also find it noteworthy that the Governor has been here twice before—first when he was unanimously confirmed by the Senate as a U.S. Ambassador to the Chinese nation of Singapore under President George H.W. Bush, and then as a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative under President George W. Bush. Now, in his third appearance before the Senate as a nominee, he has answered the President's call to serve as Ambassador to China and leaves his post in Utah where, I might add, he was reelected to a second term as Governor with more than 70 percent of the vote. This speaks volumes about Governor Huntsman's ability to cross bridges, conquer divides, and put aside partisan politics when doing what he believes to be best for his family, our State, and our country.

It is no secret that under Governor Huntsman's stewardship, Utah has been named the best-managed State by the Pew Research Center. Building on the excellent work of our State legislature, the Governor has helped lead our State in economic development initiatives and incentive programs that have shaped Utah into one of the most dynamic States in the Nation.

In short, I cannot think of a more qualified nominee for Ambassador to China than Governor Huntsman. He is fluent in Mandarin Chinese, a skill that is vitally important in this day and age. Indeed, the Governor has been to China on numerous occasions and even learned Chinese while serving a mission in Taiwan for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is in that light that I have no doubt the Chinese will have to respect his affection for Taiwan as much as they respect his linguistic ability.

Moreover, while the Governor will not be making policy, he will be known to the Chinese as a Republican. They will see him as an independent thinker, while always being loyal to the administration he serves.

Finally, China is a country that admires the businessman and the trader, and they are a country that knows that business and trade with the United States is the key for their sustained success. These are values and experience the Governor knows, understands and has practiced during his varied and impressive career in public service and private business. His years in international business have exposed him to the universe of China experts—people such as my good friend John Kamm, the preeminent advocate of human rights in China. It is my hope that he will keep the Embassy door open to these experts from around the world, and I am sure that he will.

Again, I commend President Obama for selecting Governor Huntsman for this important post, even though Utah will lose a great leader as a result. However, Governor Huntsman has left the State in good hands and we all look forward to working with Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert in his new role as Governor of the great State of Utah.

In closing, I believe I speak for all Utahns when I say Governor Huntsman will be missed, but we all know he is the appropriate person for this job. Moreover, his selection could not come at a more appropriate time. Indeed, this is a time when a man like Governor Huntsman is needed on the world stage.

I congratulate Governor Huntsman on his nomination. I applaud his beautiful wife Mary Kaye and her decision to continue to share his time and talents with the world. And I know his wonderful family will be blessed by his contribution to our country in this position.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask now that we proceed to Calendar Nos. 217, 218, 219, 259, 260, 310, 311, 313 and that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, and no further motions be in order and any statements relating to these matters be printed in the RECORD as if read and 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:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tristram J. Coffin, of Vermont, to be United States Attorney for the District of Vermont for the term of four years.

Joyce White Vance, of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama for the term of four years.

Preet Bharara, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York for the term of four years.

B. Todd Jones, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

John P. Kacavas, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

A. Thomas McLellan, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director of National Drug Control Policy.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Alejandro N. Mayorkas, of California, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Cranston J. Mitchell, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission for a term of six years. (Reappointment)

NOMINATION OF ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes today to speak about Mr. Mayorkas' record and what I believe he will bring to the Department of Homeland Security as Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. I have known Mr. Mayorkas for many years and am proud to have recommended him to President Clinton for the position of U.S. attorney for the Central District of California.

As U.S. attorney, Mr. Mayorkas developed an innovative program to address violent crime by targeting criminals' possession of firearms, prosecuting street gangs, and at the same

time developing afterschool programs to help at-risk youth discover and realize their potential.

Mr. Mayorkas has also worked directly on dozens of cases and overseen hundreds of attorneys relating to immigration during his tenure as a U.S. attorney. These cases included the prosecution of individuals and rings producing false immigration documents, illegal reentry cases, and alien smuggling conspiracies, among others.

For example, in 1999, at the very beginning of his career as U.S. attorney, Mr. Mayorkas prosecuted the ring-leader of an Iranian visa forgery operation connected to terrorism. Bahram Tabatabai pleaded guilty to providing material assistance with immigration papers to members of the People's Mujahadeen, a group that the State Department considers a terrorist group. Tabatabai helped overseas foreign nationals obtain fake birth certificates and records to apply for benefits and created false persecution stories for Iranians in the United States to apply for asylum.

Mr. Mayorkas also prosecuted Jesse Gardona who at the time was a 15-year veteran of INS—for his role in moving 10 undocumented immigrants from an INS detention facility to an East Los Angeles drop house and demanding as much as \$1,800 in ransom from their relatives.

The mission of Citizenship and Immigration Services is to establish immigration services, policies, and priorities to preserve America's legacy as a nation of immigrants while ensuring that no one is admitted who is a threat to public safety. Mr. Mayorkas has a record of working to secure our Nation's criminal and immigration laws in the face of increasing gang and border violence—and as travel documents have become less secure, to work to ensure that fraud is no longer prevalent in our immigration system.

I am confident that under Mr. Mayorkas' leadership, this administration will work to preserve and increase the integrity of our immigration laws by decreasing fraud and bringing accountability to our immigration system.

It is also my belief that Mr. Mayorkas has the vision to lead Citizenship and Immigration Services in the other half of its mission—to preserve the role of America as a compassionate Nation that treats families and children at our shores humanely and with an eye toward the potential they bring to our Nation. In 1960, Mr. Mayorkas and his family fled Cuba and came to the United States as refugees. Since then, he has lived the American dream and has done so by working on behalf of the American people.

Mr. President, with the nomination of Mr. Mayorkas the administration has taken a significant step toward rebuilding public confidence in the secure, fair, and effective administration of our Nation's immigration laws. I urge my colleagues to confirm Mr.

Mayorkas today so that DHS will have the leadership in place to get to work on behalf of the American people.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Calendar Nos. 415 and 418 and that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, no further motions be in order, and any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD and President Obama 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:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

David J. Kappos, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, vice Jonathan W. Dudas, resigned.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

David Edward Demag, of Vermont, to be United States Marshal for the District of Vermont for the term of four years, vice John R. Edwards.

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN-499 and that the Senate then proceed to the consideration of the nomination; that the nomination be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, and no further motions be in order, any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, and that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

Deborah Matz, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring April 10, 2015.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from PN-647; that the Senate proceed to the nomination; that the nomination be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Joan M. Evans, of Oregon, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from PN-823 and that the Senate then proceed to the nomination; that the nomination be confirmed and the motions to recon-

sider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Kelvin James Cochran, of Louisiana, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged en bloc of PN-819, PN-528, and PN-529; that the Senate proceed en bloc to the nominations; that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Alexander G. Garza, of Missouri, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security and Chief Medical Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

Julia Akins Clark, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years.

Ernest W. Dubester, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 29, 2012.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CASS R. SUNSTEIN TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 167, the nomination of Cass Sunstein to be the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The bill clerk read the nomination of Cass R. Sunstein, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.