

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Craig Becker, of Illinois, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow, Bill Nelson, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Amy Klobuchar, Mark Begich, Byron L. Dorgan, Dianne Feinstein, John D. Rockefeller IV, Edward E. Kaufman, Roland W. Burris, Daniel K. Akaka, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “The Comcast/NBC Universal Merger: What Does the Future Hold for Competition and Consumers?”

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPERFUND, TOXICS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Superfund, Toxics, and Environmental Health be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4 at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2010, at 3 p.m., to hold an International Development and Foreign Assistance Subcommittee hearing entitled “Haiti Reconstruction: Smart Planning Moving Forward.”

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CRAIG BECKER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to move to executive session to consider Calendar No. 688, the nomination of Craig Becker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Craig Becker, of Illinois, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk, and I ask that it be reported.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on Monday, the Senate will debate, concurrently, the nominations of Joseph Greenaway to be U.S. circuit judge for the Third Circuit and Craig Becker to be a member of the National Labor Relations

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Prohibiting Certain High-Risk Investment Activities by Banks and Bank Holding Companies.”

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2010, in room S-216 of the Capitol.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2010, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “The President’s Fiscal Year 2011 Budget.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2010, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Keeping Foreign Corruption Out of the United States: Four Case Histories.”

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select

Board until 5 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 5 p.m., the Senate will proceed to vote on the confirmation of the Greenaway nomination and then immediately proceed to a cloture motion on the Becker nomination.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator DODD.

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

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

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

HONORING SENATOR PAUL KIRK

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, first I wanted to say a few words to welcome our new colleague, SCOTT BROWN, who has joined our ranks as a Member of the Senate from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I wasn't able to be here at 5 p.m. when he was sworn into office, but I wish him the very best. I had a good conversation with him a couple weeks ago after his election and look forward to serving with him.

I rise this evening to honor a good friend and a legendary public servant. Although he only served here a short time, PAUL KIRK has been a public servant for decades. I wish to tell him and his wife Gail and their family what a remarkable contribution in a few short weeks PAUL KIRK has made as a Member of the Senate.

PAUL is an American who will never get the kind of attention he deserves for the rich life of public service he has led throughout his career. That won't bother him one bit because that is who PAUL KIRK is. For over half a century, he has been motivated not by a desire to seek recognition or to receive it but by a passion for progress and a deep love of his own country.

PAUL came to Washington last fall with the impossible task of succeeding our dear friend Ted Kennedy as Senator from Massachusetts. PAUL did so not in the hopes of filling Teddy's shoes but in continuing to blaze the path forward that Ted Kennedy forged more than four decades ago when he arrived as a new Member of this body. As a U.S. Senator, PAUL KIRK has served the Commonwealth with great dignity and humility. Although he was only among our ranks for a few short months, all of us will miss him in this Chamber. He left such a good and lasting impression of his service.

PAUL's time here is just one of many roles he has played in service to our Nation and our democracy. In 1965, many years ago, PAUL KIRK entered public service as an assistant district attorney in Massachusetts. But it wasn't long before PAUL's story became intertwined with the Kennedy family in Massachusetts.

In 1968, PAUL worked on Robert Kennedy's Presidential campaign, and the very next year he joined the Senate staff of Bob's brother Ted. Thus began the kind of a partnership that has moved mountains throughout our history. As a Senate staffer, the political director of Teddy's Presidential campaign, and the chairman of our own Democratic Party, PAUL served alongside Ted Kennedy as Teddy and his remarkable staff over those four decades fought battle after battle on behalf of the American people.

PAUL has always understood the importance and power of the American story. That is why he has served for a decade as chairman of the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs, working to spread and support democracy around the world so that every nation could know what it is to be truly free. And he has worked to strengthen our own democracy as well, as the longtime cochairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates.

As we all know, PAUL KIRK is a very proud Democrat, but he is even prouder as an American. In an age when it seems as if partisanship can overwhelm even our most fundamental Democratic values, PAUL KIRK has stood for fair play and open debate for decades.

Many Americans first met PAUL KIRK after Teddy passed away, when PAUL so elegantly conducted that remarkable memorial service at the Kennedy Library in Boston. They saw in him the passion that led him to join Ted Kennedy in the cause of progress and also the quiet dignity of a man for whom the work would go on, even after the passing of his very dear friend.

As a U.S. Senator, they have seen him take up the torch of issues that mattered to Teddy and to the people of Massachusetts and to the American people, none more important, of course, or dear to PAUL's heart than the fight to reform our health care system, a fight that will have to continue in his absence.

PAUL has been assisted in this difficult job by a core of public servants, the names of whom are unfamiliar to most and the likes of which we might not see again, the staff he inherited from Ted Kennedy. Whether you are a Democrat or Republican—I say this to new Members—the older Members of this Chamber, Democrats and Republicans, will tell you that to know the Kennedy staff was to respect how talented and professional that staff was, how fairly they treated every Member of this body and every staff member. It was the core reason for their success legislatively, because they had such respect for individual Members, the staff

who works here, and for the ideas people brought to the debate. They too, of course, deserve our appreciation and recognition as well.

I congratulate Senator SCOTT BROWN and welcome him to this Chamber. It is a remarkable opportunity he will have to represent the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I look forward to working with him in the coming days and weeks. Senator BROWN comes to fill a seat from which great things have been done for the people of Massachusetts and our country. I think there might be no greater compliment I can pay to the man whom we welcomed last year than to say to Senator BROWN: We wish you the very best in filling Ted Kennedy's shoes and PAUL KIRK's shoes as well.

To my friend PAUL, I thank you for your service, not just the service you performed in this Chamber but a lifetime of service you have given to our country and the many more years of service I know you will be able to provide. To his wife Gail, I thank you for sharing your husband with the country over these past months. I wish you all the best as you look forward as well to the future.

To our colleagues who have come to know PAUL's decency and professionalism, I urge we follow his example, not just in dogged pursuit of good legislation that moves our country forward but in the effort to make this Chamber a place where good ideas and good conscience can once again trump pettiness and partisanship. Let us be guided in our work not just by Teddy's passion but by the selfless spirit of service that has made PAUL KIRK such a fine U.S. Senator and a very good American.

I thank PAUL for his service. I said to him the other day that my only regret is that he hasn't been able to serve here a longer time because I think he would have made a remarkable contribution to our country. He did in a short time, but I have a feeling that had he been here for a number of years, the country would be a better place today. It already is because of his service. It could have been even better. I wish him the very best.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010, AT 2 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2010.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:54 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 8, 2010, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

DARYL J. BONESS, OF MAINE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 13, 2013. (REAPPOINTMENT)