

know John Ashcroft. I know the man who served in this Chamber. I know his abilities, his education, and his qualifications. I don't think there has ever been a more qualified person by background, education, and experience to be Attorney General than John Ashcroft.

I remember 8 years ago, when I voted to confirm the previous Attorney General, thinking that this nominee was not qualified, and I think she proved it. But I voted for her because I thought President Clinton was entitled to his nominee at that point.

So we have a man who is qualified. But it is more than that. John Ashcroft is a good man of high veracity and who will keep his word.

Senator BYRD said yesterday, I believe, in his speech that he has made a commitment he is going to uphold the law. What more should we want: A pound of flesh?

I realize this is all about other things. That is OK. But it is unfair to this man.

Maybe the ravens will be heard never more. But forevermore you can quote me on this and remind me on this. John Ashcroft will go on to be one of the best Attorneys General we have ever had. He will be conscientious. He will show capability. He will be sensitive. He will be honest. He will enforce the laws—some laws that have been ignored the last 8 years—and maybe there are some people who are a little nervous about that. But, as we say in all kinds of different circles in America, I am here to vouch for their man. I vouch for John Ashcroft. I will stand by him. And you mark my words, he will go on to be a great and valuable Attorney General.

So let's move on. Let's work together, as I know we can do.

I accept the olive branch extended by Senator RUSS FEINGOLD. That is what he said. I extend the olive branch to show a willingness to work together and reach across the aisle and across all the other things that could divide us. He showed courage. I will not forget it. In fact, I think I maybe didn't forget it in advance because we have already worked out an agreement on how we are going to bring up a bill about which he cares a lot.

But that was an important statement on his part. I accept it. We accept it. That is the way we should proceed.

This new President has changed the tone in this city. Absolutely, people are astounded by his willingness to reach out and to listen and to be heard. He is meeting with everybody. He has even seen motion pictures with them. So he is doing his part. Let us make sure the Senate does its part.

Vote for John Ashcroft. You won't regret it. Then let's move on to important legislation. Let's argue about ideas. Let's argue about how to make education better. Let's argue about how to give tax relief—"return to sender," as the Senator from Georgia said. That is what the people want us to talk about. They want to get this vicious

and partisan stuff behind us and deal with real issues. I don't think insurmountable damage has been done. I believe we can build on the other things we have done in the last month.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Does the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John Ashcroft of Missouri to be Attorney General of the United States? The yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 8 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Allard	Ensign	Miller
Allen	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennett	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Fitzgerald	Nickles
Breaux	Frist	Roberts
Brownback	Gramm	Santorum
Bunning	Grassley	Sessions
Burns	Gregg	Shelby
Byrd	Hagel	Smith (NH)
Campbell	Hatch	Smith (OR)
Chafee	Helms	Snowe
Cochran	Hutchinson	Specter
Collins	Hutchison	Stevens
Conrad	Inhofe	Thomas
Craig	Jeffords	Thompson
Crapo	Kyl	Thurmond
DeWine	Lott	Voinovich
Dodd	Lugar	Warner
Domenici	McCain	
Dorgan	McConnell	

NAYS—42

Akaka	Durbin	Lieberman
Baucus	Edwards	Lincoln
Bayh	Feinstein	Mikulski
Biden	Graham	Murray
Bingaman	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Hollings	Reed
Cantwell	Inouye	Reid
Carnahan	Johnson	Rockefeller
Carper	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Cleland	Kerry	Schumer
Clinton	Kohl	Stabenow
Corzine	Landrieu	Torricelli
Daschle	Leahy	Wellstone
Dayton	Levin	Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Illinois, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified that the Senate has given consent to this nomination, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Illinois, I now ask consent that the Senate be in a period for morning business.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS RULES—107TH CONGRESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the Senate Appropriations Committee has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 107th Congress. Pursuant to

Rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator BYRD I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the Committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

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

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RULES 107TH CONGRESS

I. Meetings

The Committee will meet at the call of the Chairman.

II. Quorums

1. Reporting a bill. A majority of the members must be present for the reporting of a bill.

2. Other business. For the purpose of transacting business other than reporting a bill or taking testimony, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

3. Taking testimony. For the purpose of taking testimony, other than sworn testimony, by the Committee or any subcommittee, one member of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. For the purpose of taking sworn testimony by the Committee, three members shall constitute a quorum, and for the taking of sworn testimony by any subcommittee, one member shall constitute a quorum.

III. Proxies

Except for the reporting of a bill, votes may be cast by proxy when any member so requests.

IV. Attendance of staff members at closed sessions

Attendance of Staff Members at closed sessions of the Committee shall be limited to those members of the Committee Staff that have a responsibility associated with the matter being considered at such meeting. This rule may be waived by unanimous consent.

V. Broadcasting and photographing of Committee hearing

The Committee or any of its subcommittees may permit the photographing and broadcast of open hearings by television and/or radio. However, if any member of a subcommittee objects to the photographing or broadcasting of an open hearing, the question shall be referred to the Full Committee for its decision.

VI. Availability of subcommittee reports

To the extent possible, when the bill and report of any subcommittee are available, they shall be furnished to each member of the Committee thirty-six hours prior to the Committee's consideration of said bill and report.

VII. Amendments and report language

To the extent possible, amendments and report language intended to be proposed by Senators at Full Committee markups shall be provided in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member and the appropriate Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Minority Member twenty-four hours prior to such markups.

VIII. Points of order

Any member of the Committee who is floor manager of an appropriation bill, is hereby authorized to make points of order against any amendment offered in violation of the Senate Rules on the floor of the Senate to such appropriation bill.

FALSE CLAIMS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I want to speak about an important issue for the taxpayers of this