

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