

(Performance by the U.S. Navy Sea Chanters.)

(The Inaugural ceremony was concluded at 12:36 p.m.)

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 249

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 249, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify formerly homeless youth who are students for purposes of low income tax credit.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I also express my appreciation to my Republican colleagues for the unanimous-consent request I am going to offer at this time, which has been approved, as I understand it, by the Republican leader and the other Senators.

Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that tomorrow, January 21, at the hour of 12 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of HILLARY CLINTON to be Secretary of State; that there be 3 hours of debate, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination of Senator CLINTON; that upon confirmation, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no other motions be in order; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess for our usual party luncheons, and that the recess begin, if it is appropriate with the distinguished Republican leader, at 12:45 p.m., rather than at 12:30, so some debate can move forward.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if the majority leader would yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would be happy to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Is the Senator suggesting that the time on Senator CLINTON's nomination run through the luncheons?

Mr. REID. Well, what I would like to do: We would stop at a quarter to 1 and come back at 2:15 to complete that debate at that time.

Mr. McCONNELL. That is fine.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

THANKING SENATOR ALEXANDER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to the distinguished Senator from Tennessee for his usual courtesies. He had to wait for me to get here, and I appreciate his withholding until the Republican leader and I got here. The Senator from Tennessee is always a gentleman, and even though he and I do not agree once in a while on political issues, we always agree he is a gentleman.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his remarks. Unless the Republican leader has some remarks, I would like to say a couple things.

AMERICA: A REMARKABLE COUNTRY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, in August 1963, I was a law student and a summer intern in the U.S. Department of Justice here in Washington. I was standing at the back of a huge crowd on a hot day when Dr. King spoke of his dream that one day his children would be judged not "by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

The inauguration of our former colleague, Barack Obama, the day after Dr. King's birthday, symbolizes both remarkable progress on America's most intractable problem—race—and a reaffirmation of our country's most unique characteristic—a fervent belief that anything is possible.

I thought about this in the same way 4 years ago at almost this time. I formed a speech in my head that I wanted to make, but I did not make it. Senators are rarely guilty of unexpressed thoughts. I have said many things I wish I had not said, but this is one time I wish I had said, 4 years ago, what I was thinking. So I wish to say it today, right after President Obama's inauguration. And I am especially delighted Senator MARTINEZ happens to be here too.

What I was thinking 4 years ago as the new Senators were sworn in was that here were three Members of the new class who had especially unique characteristics, and they had special people in the gallery that day.

I, with Senator CARPER and some others, had been asked by the leaders

to work on the orientation for the new Senators. So we had gotten to know the new Senators, including SALAZAR and Obama and MARTINEZ, during that period of time.

So here is what I was thinking that day—and let's take them one by one. Here was Senator SALAZAR from Colorado with a Spanish surname, but he will be quick to tell you that his family has been here for 14 generations and helped to found Santa Fe. He has had a distinguished career here now. On that day 4 years ago, his mother was in the gallery.

Senator MARTINEZ was sworn in 4 years ago as a new Member of the Senate, in this case from Florida. His story, which he has just published in a remarkably good book which I have given to many of my friends, is the story of a young boy growing up very happily in Cuba whose parents took him to the airport one day, after having bought him a new suit, when he was 14 years of age, and put him on an airplane to Miami, not knowing if they would ever see him again. He was in a foster home there, then moved to Orlando. The story is all in the book. He went to Florida State, met his wife Kitty, became the mayor of Orlando, then became a member of President Bush's Cabinet, then a Member of the U.S. Senate. A very remarkable story. His mother, who put him on the airplane in Cuba, was here that day.

These same 4 years ago when we swore in these new Members of the Senate, we also had the Senator from Illinois. We all now know his story very well: a father from Kenya, a mother from Kansas. I don't need to repeat that extraordinary story, about which he has written so well in his autobiography. But what struck me was that his grandmother was in the gallery that day. It was either his grandmother or his grandfather, but I believe it was his grandmother. His father's parent was in the gallery that day on the first trip, I believe, from Africa to this country to see the son of an immigrant sworn into the U.S. Senate.

So I thought 4 years ago, and I think again today on this day on which we swear in Barack Obama as President, what a remarkable country this is. Here in this Senate 4 years ago, the 14th-generation American KEN SALAZAR is now going into President Obama's Cabinet as Secretary of the Interior. MEL MARTINEZ, having had a long career in public life as mayor in Orlando, as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, as U.S. Senator, is going on to other things in his life. Former Senator Obama, of course, is now the President of the United States. But what was remarkable to me was 4 years ago they came to this Senate, and in that gallery were their parents—and in one case a grandparent—reaffirming what I think Barack Obama's inauguration represents for us today. It was historic in the sense that it helped us symbolize the overcoming of one of our most intractable problems, the problem of race. But just as

important, it symbolized once again the characteristic that makes this country more remarkable than any other country, the idea that anything is possible.

People in other parts of the world look at the United States, and they don't always approve of us, but they know one thing is different about us: that we are not a country based on blood or race or the color of our skin or where our grandparents came from; that we are based upon our common belief in a few ideas, most of which are incorporated in two founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. But one of those ideas is just in our character, and that is this irrational, fervent belief that in this country, anything is possible. Senator MARTINEZ, Senator SALAZAR, and former Senator Barack Obama all represent that beautifully, and that makes this a very special day.

I thank the President, I yield the floor.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 12 noon tomorrow, Wednesday, January 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REED. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will consider the nomination of HILLARY CLINTON to be Secretary of State, with up to 3 hours for debate prior to a vote. Under a previous order, the Senate will recess for the weekly caucus luncheons from 12:45 until 2:15 p.m. Senators should expect a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Clinton nomination around 4:30 p.m., if all time is used.

Following executive session, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 181, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Additional rollcall votes are possible throughout the afternoon in relation to the Lilly Ledbetter bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. REED. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:58 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THOMAS ANDREW DASCHLE, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

KENNETH LEE SALAZAR, OF COLORADO, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

TIMOTHY F. GEITHNER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ERIC H. HOLDER, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

LISA PEREZ JACKSON, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RONALD KIRK, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RAY LAHOOD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUSAN E. RICE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CHRISTINA DUCKWORTH ROMER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, VICE EDWARD P. LAZEAR.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

HILDA L. SOLIS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SHAUN L. S. DONOVAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THOMAS J. VILSACK, OF IOWA, TO BE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JANET ANN NAPOLITANO, OF ARIZONA, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ARNE DUNCAN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE.

SUSAN E. RICE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

STEVEN CHU, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF ENERGY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JANE LUBCHENCO, OF OREGON, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, VICE CONRAD LAUTENBACHER, JR., RESIGNED.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

DENNIS CUTLER BLAIR, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, VICE J. MICHAEL MCCONNELL, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ROBERT L. NABORS II, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE STEPHEN S. MCMILLIN, RESIGNED.

CECILIA ELENA ROUSE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, VICE DONALD B. MARRON, RESIGNED.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

MARY L. SCHAPIRO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2014, VICE CHRISTOPHER COX, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAMES BRAIDY STEINBERG, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, VICE JOHN D. NEGROPONTE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NANCY HELEN SUTLEY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, VICE JAMES LAURENCE CONNAUGHTON.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

DANIEL K. TARULLO, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2008, VICE RANDALL S. KROZNER, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JACOB J. LEW, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JEH CHARLES JOHNSON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE, VICE WILLIAM J. HAYNES II, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JOHN P. HOLDREN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, VICE JOHN H. MARBURGER, III.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ROBERT F. HALE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER), VICE TINA WESTBY JONAS, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

AUSTAN DEAN GOOLSBEE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, VICE KATHERINE BAICKER, RESIGNED.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

GARY GENSLER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION, VICE REUBEN JEFFERY III, RESIGNED.

GARY GENSLER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2012, VICE RUEBEN JEFFERY III, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHELE A. FLOURNOY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY, VICE ERIC S. EDELMAN, RESIGNED.

WILLIAM J. LYNN, III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE GORDON ENGLAND.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate: Tuesday, January 20, 2009

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.