

our own TED STEVENS, currently the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

It is phenomenal how people more times than not find reality. They find out what gold is, what is really important, and what is big, strong, and sturdy. It is clear that when it comes to stature, he might not be a tall or big man, but he matches Alaska's mountains; no doubt about it. He is a mountain of a man. I am very grateful to be able to call him my friend.

Other Senators have already put in the RECORD all of the things he has done around here in his years as Senator and how many times he has had to run. A few times he was Senator for only a couple of years, and then he had to run again. He has run more times than the number of years of service would directly yield for a 6-year term, as the occupant of the chair and I serve.

When you add it all up, Alaska has done it right. They have concluded that when you look back on the people of Alaska, even long before there was statehood, they are really saying there has not been a man like him. Alaska hasn't had a man like TED STEVENS. He is unique.

I want to say on the floor tonight that I am a few days late. I had left town when I found out about this last week. I am glad to have the opportunity tonight.

I want to say I am thrilled to have him as my friend. He has a tough job. So do I. I do the budget, and he helps me. He does appropriations, which has to be done every single year with the claims all the Senators put upon him, and with all of the claims others place in behalf of the people of this country for new programs and new expenditures. He has an awful lot of that on his shoulders.

I say to him that we are lucky we have him here. We are thrilled that he came from Alaska. If I were an Alaskan, I would have joined them in voting for him as the "Man of the Century."

£

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2323

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2323 is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2323) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to clarify the treatment of stock options under this act.

Mr. DOMENICI. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

£

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the executive calendar: No. 450.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The nomination will be stated.

£

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rudy deLeon, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

£

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

£

ORDER FOR CLOTURE VOTE—S. 2285

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, with reference to the satellite loan guarantee legislation, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2285 occur immediately following the conclusion of S. 2097, the satellite loan guarantee bill, but in any event no later than 6 p.m. on Thursday.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2000

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 30. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, 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 then begin consideration of S. 2097, the satellite loan guarantee legislation.

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

£

PROGRAM

Mr. DOMENICI. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will begin debate on the satellite loan guarantee legislation at 9:30 a.m. Amendments to the bill are expected to be offered and debated throughout the day.

It is expected that action on the bill can be completed prior to adjournment. Therefore, Senators may expect votes on amendments and final passage of this bill.

Following the disposition of the bill, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the gas tax legislation. After that cloture vote, the Senate will begin a period of morning business with a statement expected by Senator BROWNBACK on the marriage tax penalty.

£

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:40 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 30, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.

£

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 29, 2000:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

RUDY DELEON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.