

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
DESK

FOREIGN SERVICE

PN508 Foreign Service nominations (110) beginning Stephen K. Morrison, and ending Joseph Laurence Wright, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 12, 2001.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE-
MENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
NO. 104

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, may turn to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 104, the nomination of John Graham to be the Administrator of the Office of Regulatory Affairs at OMB and that it be considered under the following time limitation:

One hour under the control of Senator LIEBERMAN, 3 hours under the control of Senator THOMPSON, 2 hours under the control of Senator DURBIN, 2 hours under the control of Senator WELLSTONE, 15 minutes under the control of Senator KERRY; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate vote at a time to be determined by the two leaders on the nomination; that upon the disposition of the nomination, 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.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 12,
2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9 o'clock a.m., on Thursday, July 12. I further ask consent that on Thursday immediately following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of the proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 333, the House Bankruptcy Act.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on Thursday, the Senate will convene at 9 a.m. and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the House Bankruptcy Reform Act, with 3 hours for debate prior to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed.

Following consideration of the bankruptcy act on Thursday, the Senate

will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill with a vote in relation to Nelson of Florida amendment No. 893.

At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will swear in the new Secretary of the Senate, Jeri Thomson.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senator MURRAY and Senator CANTWELL, who will be recognized to speak on matters of importance to them and their States and the country, the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the majority leader has indicated that the two managers of the bill have stated they believe they can complete the bill tomorrow. If not, we will have to complete it on Friday. We are quite certain that will not happen, but the leader wanted us to notify people in case we were unable to finish tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Washington is recognized.

LOSS OF FOUR WASHINGTON
FIREFIGHTERS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the Senate Chamber this evening to join my colleague, Senator MARIA CANTWELL, in acknowledging four young Americans who lost their lives in service to our country last evening.

Like many Americans, this morning I awoke to the very tragic news that four firefighters had died while battling a wildfire near Winthrop, WA.

Today I want my colleagues and the American people to know the names of those four brave firefighters: Tom Craven, 30 years old, of Ellensburg, WA; Karen Fitzpatrick, 18 years old of Yakima, WA; Devin Weaver, 21, of Yakima; and Jessica Johnson, 19, also from Yakima.

These were young people.

These were people who put themselves in harms way to keep the rest of us safe.

Today, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of those four courageous firefighters.

It's hard to imagine the dangers that firefighters face every day. But they choose to fight fires to help protect the rest of us—our families and our communities.

When something like this happens, it makes all of us stop and think about what they've sacrificed for our safety.

My brother is a firefighter. For years, he fought fires. My family and I understand the risks.

I know how those families feel every day when they send their loved ones off to work.

They are proud of them.

They know they are doing something important for their neighbors and their community.

And they are always hoping they will get back home safely at the end of the day.

This tragedy reminds us all of the dangers that firefighters face every day.

To the families of those four brave young people, please know that we are a grateful nation, and you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

I also want to wish a speedy recovery for the other firefighters who were injured while battling the wildfire.

I want to thank the firefighters in Washington State—and across the country—for the work they do to protect us.

We own them a debt of gratitude.

Today, we owe four families our condolences and our thanks for their sacrifice. I yield to Senator CANTWELL from Washington State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I come to the floor today after learning of the tragic deaths of four firefighters in the Wenatchee National Forest in Washington state. These courageous firefighters died yesterday battling a wildfire in Okanogan County. A tragedy of this magnitude is felt throughout Washington state, but should also be recognized and mourned by a grateful nation.

This is the nation's deadliest wildfire since 1994. On behalf of the citizens of Washington State, I extend my deepest sympathies to the families of the four brave men and women who gave their lives to protect their neighbors. Squad Leader Tom Craven of Ellensburg, Devin Weaver of Yakima, Jessica Johnson of Yakima, and Karen Fitzpatrick of Yakima gave their lives to keep us safe. This tragedy is compounded because these firefighters were so young—the youngest being just 18 years old.

We join their families and friends in mourning their loss.

As Senator MURRAY pointed out, this tragedy reminds us that we often take for granted the men and women who routinely put their lives on the line to protect us. Every state in the nation has experienced the loss of people involved in fighting fires.

I hope the families and friends of these brave firefighters know that the courage and sacrifice of their loved ones will not be forgotten and that our sympathies reach out to their families.

I also want to recognize the hard work of those firefighters who are still fighting; to those who are injured, I also wish them a speedy recovery. The firefighters of the U.S. Forest Service come from all over the country. They have been battling fires for years. This year alone, 300 firefighting personnel are available on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. These firefighters work year after year in service to their country with little recognition.

On behalf of the residents of Washington State and the Nation, I thank

them for their hard work and their dedication under very trying circumstances. We all remember the sacrifice that each and every one of you have made.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MILLER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

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

FBI OVERSIGHT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to discuss with my colleagues the issue of the Federal Bureau of Investigation oversight, and how we can help the Bureau regain the trust and confidence of the American people.

First, I find it very pleasant today to commend Attorney General Ashcroft for something he did. He announced today action to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Office of Inspector General of the Justice Department so that that Office of Inspector General would be able to work with the FBI and the DEA on its own initiative, without jumping through a lot of hoops which were some hoops that were put in place in the previous administration, which, in a sense, put the FBI and the DEA out of bounds from things that you would expect an inspector general of a department to be looking into.

So, effective immediately, then, the inspector general will have primary jurisdiction over allegations of misconduct against employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Agency. This is an important and encouraging step towards overall FBI reform, one which I hope will help to solve the problems that the FBI has with their management culture.

Previous to this, the inspector general could not initiate an investigation within the FBI, or the Drug Enforcement Agency, without the express permission from the Deputy Attorney General. Contrariwise, in most other Departments, the inspector general can do any investigation they want to, unimpeded in any way. It is very important for the inspector general to have that freedom to function. They are not only an agent for the Cabinet Department head, but they are also an agent of the Congress because they can report directly to the Congress. It is essential to have that type of oversight, that type of policing to ferret out wrongdoing.

I have been saying for many years that the FBI should not be allowed to police itself, and I am encouraged by

this new step taken today towards the establishment of a free and independent oversight entity which now, truly, the Department of Justice inspector general will be.

I am also pleased to see as part of this order that the Attorney General has enhanced whistleblower protection for FBI employees who come forward with protected disclosures. As an author of legislation that is on the books now for whistleblower protection, the last time we enhanced the protection for whistleblowers there was just enough sympathy—and unjustified sympathy—within this body for the FBI that somehow the FBI could have a separate set of regulations just for whistleblowers within the FBI. As a result, whistleblowers within the FBI have not had the same amount of protection that whistleblowers in any other agency of the Federal Government might have. So this will also help in that direction. I thank the Attorney General for that.

Today, then, following up on this action of the Attorney General, I have forwarded a letter to Attorney General Ashcroft, commending him on these steps, and also request that his office provide me with additional details regarding how the various investigative and audit entities within the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the DEA are to be administered and organized.

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to meet with FBI Director nominee Robert Mueller. I discussed with Robert Mueller several concerns that I have with how the Bureau has been managed over the past several years. I also discussed with Mr. Mueller my views on the type of leadership that I think the FBI needs.

We have a once-every-10-year opportunity to find someone who can fix the problems inherent in the management culture at the Bureau because that appointment comes up for a 10-year length of time. I want to make sure, during this once-in-a-10-year opportunity, Mr. Mueller understands my concerns.

Part of our discussion concerned the need for strengthening FBI oversight, both on the part of the executive branch, along the lines of what I have been saying about the inspector general, but also from the Congress—oversight, constitutional oversight over the executive branch agencies.

Without asking Mr. Mueller to comment on pending legislation, I mentioned to Mr. Mueller I am working on a bill to permanently extend by statute the jurisdiction that was given today by the Attorney General to the Department of Justice inspector general, so that some future Attorney General cannot put impediments in the way of the inspector general investigating things within the FBI. I encourage Mr. Mueller, should he be confirmed, to make it a priority to ensure that he and the FBI will cooperate fully with whatever oversight entity is in place.

I also discussed with Mr. Mueller the need for increased whistleblower pro-

tection for FBI employees. Over the years the FBI has been notorious for retaliating against those who would expose the types of waste, fraud, and abuse in cases that have now become synonymous with a culture of arrogance within the FBI. These are cases such as Ruby Ridge, Waco, the TWA-800 investigation, the FBI crime lab investigation, Richard Jewell, Wen Ho Lee, Robert Hanssen, and most recently the Oklahoma bombing investigation in the McVeigh case.

I will be introducing legislation that will provide statutory protection for FBI whistleblowers to overcome the shortcomings of the legislation that was signed by President Bush in 1989. Those exemptions that were made from the FBI need to be taken out so the whistleblowers in the FBI have the same protection as whistleblowers in any other agency of Government. I hope the new Director will not only support this important reform but will work to ensure these important reforms are communicated clearly throughout the entire Bureau.

I believe that in order to regain the trust and confidence of the American people, the FBI must be open and fully responsive to differing points of view within its own ranks. More importantly, employees must be able to present these opinions in an atmosphere that is free of retaliation that happens so often against people whom we call whistleblowers.

Basically, within any organization there is a great deal of peer pressure to go along to get along. But that peer pressure also has the capability of covering up wrongdoing and bad administration. That is why the process of people telling the truth and coming out in the open is so important.

Without this freedom, the FBI will only continue to suppress and marginalize those who speak out, and things will go on as they have for so long. That is not good. That is what has brought about a culture of arrogance—of believing within the FBI that the FBI can do no wrong.

Perhaps the greatest example of this type of retaliation against a whistleblower occurred in an investigation I made involving a whistleblower by the name of Dr. Fred Whitehurst. You may remember that when Dr. Whitehurst came forward with proof of abusive practices at the FBI crime lab, he was shamelessly discredited by senior FBI officials. An inspector general investigation—after going through all of those hoops I talked about—later supported the assertions made by Dr. Whitehurst. In an effort to get back his good name, Dr. Whitehurst won a settlement that ended up costing the American taxpayers \$1 million.

There is something wrong when a whistleblower comes forward and he is not listened to, and he has to sue, and it costs the taxpayers \$1 million to settle. He should have been listened to in the first instance.

We want to encourage an environment within all government agencies,