

William A. Navas, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Michael Montelongo, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Reginald Jude Brown, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

John J. Young, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Michael W. Wynne, of Florida, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

Dionel M. Aviles, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Jessie Hill Roberson, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Joseph J. Jen, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research Education, and Economics.

James R. Moseley, of Indiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the following nominations reported earlier today by the Energy Committee: Patricia Lynn Scarlett to be Assistant Secretary of Interior; William Gerry Myers III to be Solicitor of the Department of Interior; Bennett William Raley to be Assistant Secretary of Interior; Vicky A. Bailey to be Assistant Secretary of Energy; Frances P. Mainella to be Director of the National Park Service; John W. Keys III to be Commissioner of Reclamation; that the nominations be confirmed, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Patricia Lynn Scarlett, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

William Gerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Bennett William Raley, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Vicky A. Bailey, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs and Domestic Policy).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Frances P. Mainella, of Florida, to be Director of the National Park Service.

John W. Keys, III, of Utah, to be Commissioner of Reclamation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from consideration of the following nominations:

Grover Whitehurst, to be Assistant Secretary of Educational Research and Improvement; Susan B. Neuman, to be the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education; Rebecca Campoverde, to be the Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs; Robert S. Martin, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services; that the Senate proceed to their consideration, en bloc; that they be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be laid on the table; that any statements on any nominations confirmed today appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD; that the

President be immediately notified of all the Senate's actions, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Grover J. Whitehurst, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education.

Susan B. Neuman, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

Rebecca O. Campoverde, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Robert S. Martin, of Texas, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

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

BEIJING'S BID FOR THE OLYMPICS

Mr. WELLSTONE. The International Olympic Committee is going to announce tomorrow which country will host the 2008 summer games. The competition is fierce. Toronto and Paris are serious contenders. Yet it seems likely that Beijing will get the prize.

I will speak briefly about this decision because I think there should be some discussion on the Senate floor and the implications. I believe China's authoritarian and oppressive government should not be granted the privilege of hosting the 2008 games. The current Government in Beijing does not deserve the international legitimacy and the spotlight that this honor bestows. Its chronic failure to respect human rights violates the fundamental spirit of the Games, and I think it should disqualify Beijing.

Many of my colleagues argue that human rights should never be a consideration in determining our trade relations with other countries. I don't agree. I do think a government's record on human rights should not be ignored with respect to choosing the site for the Olympics which confers enormous prestige on the host government and which is intended to celebrate human dignity and achievement.

I have a sense-of-the-Senate amendment because the feeling was it would be inappropriate to do it on an appropriations bill. I do not believe doing it

that way gets the support that it deserves. I know there are Senators who argue that to say the Olympics should not be in China is to politicize this question. If we are silent about this and Beijing hosts the Olympics, we are making a political statement. The political statement we are making is their violation of human rights does not matter.

Either way, it is a political statement. I prefer to speak out for human rights. The Olympics are first and foremost about sports and the joy of athletic competition, but human rights and dignity are also central to the Olympic ideal. The Olympic charter makes clear "respect for universal fundamental ethical principles" are central to the Olympic ideal.

Look at the State Department report. China's Government record has worsened as it committed "numerous serious abuses" from raiding home churches, imprisoning Tibetan monks and nuns, locking up Internet entrepreneurs, silencing democracy activists, and cracking down on Falun Gong."

The Chinese Government continues to hold a number of American scholars on suspicious charges of spying. Dr. Gao Zhan has not been allowed to contact her husband, her 5-year-old child, both American citizens, or her lawyer or the State Department.

This doesn't matter? Moreover, hundreds of thousands of people languish in jails and prison camps merely because they dared to practice their Christian or Buddhist or Islamic faith. These are the facts. Respected international human rights organizations have documented hundreds of thousands of cases of arbitrary imprisonment, torture, house arrest, or death at the hands of the Government. That is a fact.

What they have done, the brutal crackdown on the Falun Gong is unbelievable. This is a harmless Buddhist sect. According to international media reports, approximately 50,000 of these practitioners have been arrested and detained, more than 5,000 have been sentenced to labor camps without a trial, and hundreds have received prison sentences after sham trials, show trials. Detainees have often been tortured and scores of practitioners of this faith have died in Government custody. These are facts. This is the empirical evidence. Millions of others have been persecuted for so-called crimes such as, if you are ready, advocating for political pluralism and the ideals of democracy. Hundreds continue to languish in jail under a "counterrevolutionary" law which the Government repealed 3 years ago. Some of them are survivors of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

While China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights—I remember the Clinton administration has made such a big deal of this—the Chinese Government has not

ratified it. Instead, it stepped up its repression of individuals seeking to exercise the very rights the covenant is designed to protect. And we do not speak out about this.

We make the argument, to grant this country the honor of hosting the Olympics, we should not raise questions about this because to raise questions would be to make a political statement about the Olympics. Isn't it also making a political statement about the Olympics not to raise questions, to legitimize and validate this repression?

Chinese courts have sentenced members of the Chinese Democracy Party, an open opposition party, to terms of 11, 12, and 13 years for "conspiring to subvert state power." This is a fact.

Charges against these political activists—do you know what they are? They included this: They organized a party—wound up in prison. They received funds from abroad promoting independent trade unions—they wound up in prison. They used e-mails to distribute materials abroad—they wound up in prison. And they gave interviews to foreign reporters—they wound up in prison.

Here is where the Olympics is going to go. Without a word from our Government? Without a word from the Senate?

Chinese officials have also ruthlessly suppressed dissent from ethnic minorities, including Xinjiang and Tibet. According to a report by Amnesty International, the Chinese Government has reportedly committed gross violations, including widespread use of torture to exact confessions, lengthy prison sentences, and numerous executions. Are we not going to speak up about a government that tortures its citizens and that executes its citizens for no other reason than they have had the courage to speak up for democracy or to try to practice their religion?

In an apparent attempt to stop the flow of information overseas about this crackdown, Chinese security officials continue to detain a prominent businesswoman, Ms. Rebiya Kadeer, in the Province of Xinjiang. Her husband is a U.S. resident who broadcasts on Radio Free Asia and the Voice of America, championing the cause of people. She was arrested by the Chinese security forces on her way to meet with members of a visiting Congressional staff delegation.

For years, the same Ms. Kadeer has been praised by the Chinese Government for her efforts to promote economic development, including a project to help women own their own businesses. She has also been praised in the Wall Street Journal for her business savvy. She owned a department store in a provincial capital, as well as a profitable trading company. But now she has been put out of business, charged with—here is the charge, Mr. President—"illegally offering state secrets across the border," and sentenced to 8 years of hard labor. Her son and her secretary were also detained and sent to a labor camp.

Given this horrendous record, I do not believe China should be rewarded for this sort of repression. I am not a cold war warrior. I am not trying to resurrect the cold war. My father was born in Odessa, Ukraine. Then, to stay ahead of Czarist Russia, he was a Jewish immigrant. They moved to Habarovsk in the Far East, Siberia, and then Harbin, and lived in Pakeen, lived in China, and he came to the United States of America at age 17, in 1914. I am an internationalist.

I look forward to the day that Beijing hosts the Olympic games. The Chinese people are some of the most extraordinary, talented, and resourceful people on the planet. I do not for a moment want to bash or overgeneralize. I dream of a day when I can come to the Senate floor and I can celebrate the idea of China hosting the Olympic games. But not now. Not with the persecution, not with the torture, not with the murder of innocent citizens, not with the political oppression, not with the religious persecution, not with what they have done to the country of Tibet, the people of Tibet.

I believe strongly China's authoritarian, repressive Government should not be granted the privilege of hosting the 2008 games. It does not deserve the international legitimacy and spotlight that this honor bestows. Instead, this Government's chronic failure to respect human rights, I believe, violates the fundamental spirit of the Olympic games and should disqualify Beijing.

This is perhaps my morning for tilting at windmills because I believe the international committee will probably give China the Olympic Games, but sometimes it is important just to make that statement on the floor of the Senate. I believe others should speak out as well.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE ACT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to announce my cosponsorship of S. 570, the Violence Against Women Office Act introduced by my colleague Senator BIDEN. This bill will further our efforts in combating the problem of domestic violence. Domestic violence is not simply a localized, private issue, the ripple effect—socially and economically—from this problem makes it a concern for all Americans.

The statistics make my case. The crime of battering occurs every 15 seconds in this country. Over 50 percent of women will experience physical violence in an intimate relationship during their lifetime. Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend per year to three million women annually who are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend.

The Violence Against Women Act is a strong indication of our commitment to address this problem. Any possible action we can take to enhance the ef-

fectiveness of our government's efforts in this arena must be taken. This bill is one such action.

Establishment of the Violence Against Women Office, (VAWO) by statute will provide permanency in our federal efforts to combat domestic violence. This bill will institutionalize the office and will help to fulfill the federal government's responsibility to meet the goals embodied in the Violence Against Women Act, (VAWA).

This office will be located within the U.S. Department of Justice, placed within the Associate Attorney General's Office, and will be led by a director appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. In addition to running the VAWO, the Director will serve as Special Counsel to the Attorney General on all issues related to violence against women. The office is responsible for the development of policy, programs, public education initiatives, and management of all grant programs funded under the VAWA. I would underscore that this legislation does not contemplate increased staff or require any expenditure of funds beyond that currently appropriated.

In the past, the VAWO director has brought visibility and credibility to the matter of violence against women, making it an issue of national concern and earning the respect of police, prosecutors, and victim service providers. This precedence should be furthered by establishing an office to address violence against women by statute. The Office and its Director will reflect the importance that Congress and the Administration place on making this issue a priority for the federal government and the country.

In addition, this step will insure that succeeding Administrations will continue to fully implement the provisions of the VAWA. An office placed under the direct supervision of the Associate Attorney General will reflect the Justice Department's understanding that non-criminal justice system services should be offered as part of a community coordinated response. By employing a specialized knowledge of the best practices in the field, a statutory mandate will guarantee that grant funds are well utilized. A strong and visible office is necessary to implement the recommendations embodied in the National Agenda and Call to Action on Violence Against Women.

I am proud that New Mexico has many dedicated individuals offering services to battered women in our state. The Violence Against Women Act has bolstered their means to provide shelters for women in crisis, get access to legal assistance, and transition out of abusive situations. Further, VAWA funding is provided for educational outreach to medical providers and local law enforcement to increase their abilities to identify and respond in domestic violence cases.

Just last year, New Mexico entities received numerous grants as a result of the Violence Against Women Office. These grants included: