

he embraced new technologies and gave Alcoa the ability to prosper in the new economy, even as the national aluminum industry was facing economic troubles. Most importantly, Paul O'Neill demonstrated his leadership at Alcoa by garnering the respect and trust of his employees. In fact, the President of the Untied Steelworkers of America praised his nomination and called him "a man you can trust and believe." I am certain that his integrity and leadership will earn Paul O'Neill the trust of the American people and of the world's economic leaders.

In recent years, Paul O'Neill dedicated his time to leading several commissions on improving health care, education, and the local government of his hometown, Pittsburgh. Our nation will be fortunate to have a Treasury Secretary with such board and varied expertise, and these experiences will prove vital in leading a progressively diverse economy. I believe that Paul O'Neill will be an exemplary Treasury Secretary. He has already spoken of his dedication to paying down our national debt, fundamentally reforming the tax code, and ensuring that America's industries can compete in the new global economy. I am certain that his experience and leadership will be great assets in achieving these important goals.

Mr. President, it is my great honor to support Paul O'Neill to head the Department of the Treasury.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I would like to take a few brief moments to comment on the nomination of Paul O'Neill to be the Treasury Secretary of the United States. I first want to commend President Bush on choosing such a highly qualified candidate to take over the many responsibilities demanded of the United States Treasury Secretary. I fully support Mr. O'Neill's nomination, and I look forward to working with him in the new administration.

Mr. O'Neill brings to the position of Treasury Secretary a broad range of experience both in the public and private sector. He began his career as an engineer with Morrison-Knudsen, Inc. in Anchorage, Alaska and then went on to serve as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget under the Ford administration. In 1977, Mr. O'Neill became the vice president of International Paper and in 1985 assumed the position of President. This path ultimately led him to aluminum giant Alcoa where, as chairman, he has been credited with the company's revival in the face of the industry's struggles nationwide. Based on his past accomplishments, I believe Mr. O'Neill will bring valuable insights to the critically important post to which he has been nominated.

I noted with interest Mr. O'Neill's comments during his confirmation hearing about the role tax cuts should

play in our economy, namely, that they are not the sole means by which to stimulate a slowing economy. This is an important cautionary note that we all should heed as we move forward on the issue of tax cuts. While I support tax relief and reform, I also believe that our Nation's tax policy should be guided by three main principals. First, it should be fair. Those who need tax relief the most should receive the most relief. Second, any tax reform must be consistent with our commitment to maintain a balanced budget and reduce our national debt. In my opinion, this is the best gift we can give to future generations of Americans. And finally, we must leave room to meet our existing obligations, like defense, education, law enforcement, Medicare, and Social Security, as well as the new challenges that most certainly lie ahead.

The goal of this new Congress and administration must be to maintain and build upon the prosperity achieved over the past eight years. We now have the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years. The national poverty rate is at its lowest mark in 20 years. The economy has created 22 million new jobs since 1993. We have moved from record deficits to record surpluses. And October 2000 marked this country's 115th consecutive month of economic expansion—the longest period of economic growth in our nation's history. Our future policy decisions should reflect a commitment to foster this progress and growth in the coming years.

And while Mr. O'Neill will be inheriting a strong economy, there still remain a number of challenges that I believe will deserve special attention so as to keep our economy moving in a positive direction. One of the most critical tasks to be faced is the aging of America, and specifically, the stability of Social Security. As new levels of demand are placed on Social Security, we must look to reasonable and balanced proposals that will ensure a financially secure foundation for current and future retirees.

We must also strive to maintain the United States position as a trade leader in an ever-increasing global marketplace. It is in our best long-term economic interests to remain an active trading partner with our allies and to be open to the opportunities that exist in emerging markets. At the same time, we must remain aware of the needs and job security of American workers and the goods they produce. Furthermore, emphasis should be placed on maintaining the competitiveness of our financial institutions.

And one of the biggest challenges will be how to expand our nation's prosperity to more Americans—Americans who have yet to reap the benefits of our dynamic economy and who strive to achieve more financial security for themselves and their families.

In closing, I once again wish to express my support for Mr. O'Neill's nomination. He has presented himself as a fair and honest candidate who has expressed a willingness to work with all Members of Congress on our nation's most important priorities. I remain hopeful that we will be able to do so, and urge my colleagues to support this nominee.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

FAREWELL TO THE FALL PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I rise today to say goodbye to those young men and women who served in the United States Senate as pages during the fall of 2000. When they arrived in Washington in September, no one would have guessed that their term as a Senate page would be at such a historical time in the history of the United States. These dedicated young people were eyewitnesses to a presidential election which remained undecided for weeks after the votes were cast. In addition, they saw the Senate become an evenly divided body for the first time in decades.

As I have mentioned on numerous occasions when saluting the young people who serve as Senate pages, the life of a page is quite challenging. The school day begins at 6 a.m. After classes, the pages report to work at the U.S. Senate. When the Senate convenes, the pages are at their post and ready for the day's activities. Pages are called upon to assist Senators and staff in the daily operations of the Senate. Their tasks include providing Senators with copies of the appropriate bills and resolutions under consideration. They may be asked to secure documents from a Senator's office and rush over to the Senate floor for that Senator's use in debate on an issue. During rollcall votes, pages are often asked to notify relevant staff of the arrival of Senators to the floor.

Throughout the day, the page is called upon to perform any number of duties vital to the smooth operation of the Senate. They do so with a smile. This group of young men and women have had an extraordinary opportunity to serve as a Senate page. They are among a very select group to do so, and they did a great job. It is my hope that their experience here has served them well as they return home. Public service is an admirable profession. These young people are our public servants and leaders of tomorrow. Perhaps in the not too distant future, some of these young pages will return to Washington to serve as a Congressman or a Senator, or perhaps even as President of the United States.

I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing the pages well and good luck as they continue with their education, and I hope that they now have a greater understanding of our Government and its importance to all the people of the United States. Mr. President, at this time, I ask unanimous consent that the names of those young people who served as fall pages be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FALL PAGES
DEMOCRATIC PAGES

Ashley Alvarado (Montana); Mathew Mandel (Wisconsin); Amber Lopez (Vermont); Christina Kielsmeier (Minnesota); Kyle Sapkiewicz (Michigan); Bram Geller (Massachusetts); Peter Koziol (Illinois); Milena Caraballo (New Jersey); and Andrea Halverson (South Dakota).

REPUBLICAN PAGES

Sabrina Byrd (Arkansas); Kenneth Donahue (Vermont); Grant Gibson (Idaho); Sam Gladney (Missouri); Frances Griffin (Alabama); Travis Kavulla (Montana); Emily Nuse (Missouri); Laila Ouhamou (Virginia); Amy Pennington (Washington); Mathew Wigginton (Virginia); and Daniel Zoller (Indiana).

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 except for those confirmed by unanimous consent.

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

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ROBERTS (for Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE)):

S. Res. 9. A resolution notifying the President of the United States of the election of a President pro tempore; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE)):

S. Res. 10. A resolution notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a President pro tempore of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

SENATE RESOLUTION 9—NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. ROBERTS (for Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE)) submitted

the following resolution which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 9

Resolved, That the President of the United States be notified of the election of Strom Thurmond, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, as President pro tempore.

SENATE RESOLUTION 10—NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE

Mr. ROBERTS (for Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE)) submitted the following resolution which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 10

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of Strom Thurmond, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, as President pro tempore.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, January 17, 2001, to conduct a hearing on the nomination of the Honorable Mel Martinez, of Florida, to serve as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2001

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m. on Monday, January 22. I further ask unanimous consent that on Monday, 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 be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each, and that the time be equally divided in the usual form with the following exceptions:

Senator LOTT, or his designee, the first 30 minutes; Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, the second 30 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. ROBERTS. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will convene at 10 a.m. on Monday. There will be a period of morning business until 3 p.m. for statements and for bill introductions.

As a reminder, Monday is the first day for bill introductions. There will be

no rollcall votes on Monday. However, Senators can expect votes throughout the remainder of the week, if necessary. This is in regard to the confirmation of the President's nominees for his Cabinet.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2001

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:13 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 22, 2001.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate January 20, 2001:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ANN MARGARET VENEMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DONALD HENRY RUMSFELD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MELQUIADES RAFAEL MARTINEZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DONALD LOUIS EVANS, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SPENCER ABRAHAM, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE SECRETARY OF ENERGY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GALE ANN NORTON, OF COLORADO, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TOMMY G. THOMPSON, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

PAUL HENRY O'NEILL, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

COLIN LUTHER POWELL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., OF INDIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ANTHONY JOSEPH PRINCIPI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RODERICK R. PAIGE, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

CONFIRMATIONS

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE JANUARY 20, 2001:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ANN MARGARET VENEMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DONALD HENRY RUMSFELD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DONALD LOUIS EVANS, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.