THANKING THE MANAGERS OF INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the Presiding Officer is in the Chamber, I rise to express how much I appreciate his willingness to spend last 2 days. It has been very difficult.

And I worked together on Military Construction when I was chairman and he was ranking member. Through each ordeal we experience we become closer, and I have become more appreciative of his legislative abilities.

For both of us to be able to work with one of the legends of the Senate, Senator BYRD, is always a pleasure and a learning experience. I want to make sure that there is an appreciation for the good work done by the two managers of this bill.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the nominations reported earlier today by the Foreign Relations Committee as follows: Peter R. Chavasse to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone; Lori A. Forman to be Assistant Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development; Aubrey Hooks to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Donald J. McConnell to be Ambassador to the State of Eritrea; Nancy Powell to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana; George McDade Staples to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon and to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; 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 DEPLOYMENT

Douglas Jay Feith, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Peter W. Rodman, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.

Thomas P. Christie, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

Diane K. Moss, of Texas, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness.

Steven John Morello, Sr., of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army.

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).

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, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Vicky A. Bailey, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense for 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 will 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.

Susana 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.

FEDERAL AGENCY

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