

Navy and was deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ms. Millett also comes highly recommended by distinguished members of the Illinois legal community.

I received a letter from Patrick Fitzgerald, the former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, expressing "strong support" for Ms. Millett's nomination and urging "prompt consideration of her candidacy on the merits."

I also received a letter from 28 prominent attorneys including former Illinois Governor James Thompson, a Republican, and current Illinois State Bar Association president Paula Holderman.

They expressed their strong support for Ms. Millett, saying that "she embodies the evenhandedness, impartiality, and objectivity required for the federal judiciary, as evidenced by her more than 10 years of service in the Solicitor General's office in both the Clinton and Bush Administrations."

The bottom line is that Ms. Millett is an outstanding nominee with broad support from across the ideological spectrum. There is no question that she is well-qualified to serve on the bench, and she will serve with distinction.

I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, there are some good things that are going on, and I wish to talk about that.

First, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business until 6:15 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE GOOD NEWS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, there are some tough times around here, but I usually look for the good news. There is good news. Would anyone have believed 6 months ago that most of the chemical weapons in Syria would be dismantled at this point? In our wildest expectations we could not have expected that. But for the technicalities and specifics of the inspection, that clearly appears to have occurred or is well on its way to occurring.

We have had 43 straight months of private sector job growth in the economy. When Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers went down, we were in a financial death spiral. Little by little we are coming out of it. Of course, the news just announced last Friday on the jobs report gives another indication that the economy is beginning to take

hold, and we see that in the confidence that is being expressed. We see that in the real estate market, and we certainly see that in the financial markets in New York.

Let me give you another piece of good news that most people would not think about. There has been the discovery of a former Martian lake. As we reach out into the cosmos to try to find any indication of life, scientists are now thinking that this Martian lake might have harbored life billions of years ago—about the time some of the scientists suggest that small microcosm of life might have started on this planet. If this proves out, we are going to Mars not just with robots. Eventually, in the 2030s, we will go with humans, and when we get there, we will find out if that is true. If it is true, was there life that developed? If there was life that developed, was it civilized? If it was civilized, what happened and what can we learn from that that might help us as a civilized life? So I see good signs.

I see the good signs of Senator Kerry as our Secretary of State and what he is doing in trying to bring the parties together in the Middle East. So instead of everything being doom and gloom, I see good things.

EXTENDING THE UNDETECTABLE FIREARMS ACT OF 1988

Mr. NELSON. Senator SCHUMER and I are here for another reason. We don't want to make a mistake. For some number of years, there has been on the books a law which will expire at midnight tonight that has protected us from weapons going through detectors that are not made of metal which the detectors can't detect. Of course, not only are we talking about government buildings and other secure facilities, but clearly we are talking about airports as well.

So now computer technology has advanced to the point, ever since we had that old law, that a person can actually, with a computer, through 3D processing, laying down plastic layer upon plastic layer, create a weapon that cannot be detected with most of the detectors we have today. That old law needs to be updated, but apparently there are those who do not want it updated. So, as a last gasp, we are appealing to the Senate, before the stroke of midnight tonight when this law will be erased, to continue the old law that will at least go after the plastic-type weapons, plastic guns, of which their manufacture—it is required that they have some part of metal in them in order to detect them. But the technology has surpassed that. They can now manufacture them with 3D printing to have no metal parts and they will still shoot a bullet. That is what we are going to have to update. So with the simple click of a mouse,

things are changed and it makes it practically invisible to metal detectors and other screening devices.

I thank the senior Senator from New York, who has taken the lead on this issue. He has recognized this problem. He has asked me to join him.

The House of Representatives last week passed similar legislation to not do what we ought to do to update the law but to continue the current ban on such weapons for another 10 years. They obviously pose a very serious threat to our national security as well as to Americans' personal security, and we need to do everything we can to keep them out of the hands of people who want to do harm to others.

Mr. President, I am looking forward to the comments of the senior Senator from New York.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would like to wait for Senator GRASSLEY—here he is. I will speak for a minute and then propound my unanimous consent request, and then Senator GRASSLEY will propound his request, I presume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to thank my good colleague from Florida who has been a great partner on this very important issue. He outlined it well. I will just speak for a few minutes on this subject.

The bottom line is very simple. There are bad people who always want to evade the law, and there are good people—most Americans, the vast majority—who want to protect the law. Our job is to prevent the bad people without hurting the good people. We will have different views on the issue of gun control as to where to draw that line, but it seems to me on this issue there should be no dispute whatsoever. As the Senator from Florida outlined, there is new technology that for the first time will allow guns to be made that function without metal. That presents a serious danger—some might even say a mortal danger—to our safety because if a person can pass a gun through a metal detector with the very purpose to stop guns from getting into delicate areas, such as airports, sports stadiums, courts, and schools, it can create real havoc. To allow plastic guns that can fire one bullet, two bullets, three bullets, four bullets into these places creates real danger for our citizenry.

There were some wise people back in 1988, even before these guns could be developed, who passed a law that said we should not allow them to exist. It was a good law. The trouble is, as my colleague from Florida has outlined, technology has advanced, so not only are these guns real, but they can be made so that the law that exists and expires tonight can be evaded.