

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Secretary-elect will present herself to the podium for the taking of the oath.

The Honorable Jeri Thomson, escorted by the Honorable TOM DASCHLE and the Honorable TRENT LOTT, advanced to the desk of the President pro tempore; the oath prescribed by law was administered to her by the President pro tempore.

[Applause, Senators rising.]

NOTIFYING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELECTION OF JERI THOMSON AS SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 130) notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a Secretary of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 130) reads as follows:

S. RES. 130

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Jeri Thomson as Secretary of the Senate.

NOTIFICATION TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send a third resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 131) notifying the President of the United States of the election of a Secretary of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 131) reads as follows:

S. RES. 131

Resolved, That the President of the United States be notified of the election of the Honorable Jeri Thomson as Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I might take a moment to speak on behalf of what I know is the entire Senate body but in particular the Democratic caucus in congratulating Jeri Thomson. She has been a professional's professional for the last 30 years.

She has served, as most of our colleagues know, as the Executive Assistant/Democratic Representative in the Office of the U.S. Senate Sergeant at Arms. Her responsibilities included managing all institutional issues for the Senate leader and all Democratic Senators. She had the responsibilities for all the plans and the implementation of the issues conferences and other events for the Democratic caucus and managed all aspects of participation by Democratic Senators in the national party conventions.

But that is just the latest in a series of responsibilities that she has had that go back now almost three decades.

She was the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Senate from 1989 to 1995. She served as the Chief Operating Officer of the Secretary of the Senate, managing 12 departments with approximately 250 staff members. Her responsibilities at that time included budgeting, policy and program development, and implementation of human resources management. The administrative reform and modernization programs were under her responsibility as well.

Prior to serving in that capacity, she was a senior staff member to Senator John Tunney; special assistant to the Sergeant at Arms; and the Deputy Director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Jeri received her bachelor of arts from the University of Washington. She was Kodak fellow at Harvard University's program for senior managers in government. She was selected as one of the 100 top data processors in government, industry, and academia for her work in automating the legislative processes and procedures in the Senate in 1993.

That is her resume. What you don't know in reading the resume is what kind of person she is. I know of no more dedicated person in the Halls of Congress than Jeri Thomson. I know of no one I have had a greater joy working with than Jeri Thomson. I know of no one who loves this institution more than Jeri Thomson. I know of no one who has greater respect among our colleagues in the Senate than Jeri Thomson.

It should come as no surprise that Jeri Thomson is now our Secretary of the Senate. I commend her for all she has done. I thank her for what she has now agreed to do. I wish her well as she begins this very important new responsibility.

I might add that her family, David James and two daughters, Kaitlin and Kristin, and mother Louise are all here to help celebrate this momentous occasion. We welcome Jeri's family. We thank them for being a part of this celebration and we wish them and Jeri well as they begin.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I certainly join the distinguished Democratic leader in congratulating Jeri Thomson on her selection and election to be the Secretary of the Senate. I know that Senator DASCHLE, as majority leader, will have a very effective Secretary of the Senate in this fine person and that she will do her typical nonpartisan, fair and efficient job in this role.

We know Jeri. She has been here a long time. She is one of the institutions, if I might say—except for age, of course—of the Senate. She has always been very fair and very reasonable in her dealings with the Republicans in the Senate. We appreciate that. We know that is the way that she will proceed in the future. This is a very important role. If you go back and look at the history of the Senate, Senator BYRD certainly can tell us that this is a position we have had for years. The first Secretary was chosen on April 8, 1789, two days after the Senate achieved its first quorum for business. It is a very important role in the functioning of the Senate—the paperwork, administratively, the computers, the people serving here in the Chamber. There are so many important roles that that position requires careful consideration of, and work and development. I know she will do that.

I urge Jeri Thomson to do as I urged her predecessor, Gary Sisco, in that position, to make sure you do such a job that when you leave the position, the office and the position will be even better than it was when you took it over. I know you will do that. We extend to you our best wishes and our cooperation.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I offer my personal congratulations and all good wishes to Jeri. I think she is going to be a superb Secretary of the Senate. What most people don't know about Jeri Thomson is that not only is she a talented professional, but she is a very nice person. She and I had knee surgery at approximately the same time, and I really never had a better friend during that period. She sent me books to read, made phone calls, even sent me a special pillow that could be used to help the pain from one knee to another. It was a wonderful gesture.

In the course of discussions about our relative injuries, over the past almost year now, I have come to know her very well. This is truly a distinguished woman because it is very hard to be an excellent professional and also to take the time that is necessary to reach out a hand to make someone feel a little bit better.

Jeri, you are all of the above. Congratulations and godspeed.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.