Health, Education and Welfare in the Nixon Administration.

From 1970 to 1971, he worked as the executive assistant to New York City Mayor John Lindsay. Afterward, he returned to Monterey, to private law practice.

In 1976, he ran and won election to the U.S. House of Representatives, and he served in the House for 16 years. During that time, he also served as chairman of the Budget Committee.

In 1993, he joined the Clinton administration as head of the Office of Management and Budget. In July 1994, Mr. Panetta became President Clinton's chief of staff.

He served in that capacity until January 1997, when he returned to California to found and lead the Leon and Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy at California State University Monterey Bay.

Mr. Panetta and his wife, Sylvia, have three sons and five grandchildren.

It is very fair and safe for me to say that he has a reputation for intelligence and integrity.

In speaking with Mr. Panetta and President Obama multiple times, I am convinced that Mr. Panetta will surround himself with career professionals, including Deputy Director Stephen Kappes. He has committed to keeping the senior leadership of the CIA in place, but at the same time has vowed to bring new policies and new leadership to the Agency.

I know Mr. Panetta has immersed himself in CIA matters since being nominated, and his top priority, if confirmed, will be to conduct a complete review of all the Agency's activities.

Moreover, I strongly believe that the CIA needs a Director who will take the reins of the Agency and provide the supervision and oversight so that this agency, which operates in a clandestine world of its own, must have.

President Obama has made clear that his selection of Leon Panetta was intended as a clean break from the past—a break from secret detentions and coercive interrogations; a break from outsourcing its work to a small army of contractors; and a break from analysis that was not only wrong, but the product of bad practice that helped lead our Nation to war.

President Obama said when announcing this nomination that this will be a CIA Director ''who has my complete trust and substantial clout.''

This is a hugely important but difficult post. The CIA is the largest civilian intelligence agency with the most disparate of missions.

It produces the most strategic analysis of the intelligence agencies and it is the center for human intelligence collection. It is unique in that it carries out covert action programs, implementing policy through intelligence channels. The Intelligence Committee held confirmation hearings on Mr. Panetta's nomination on February 5 and 6.

Our responsibility was clear: to make sure that Leon Panetta will be a Director who makes the CIA effective in what it does—but also to make sure that it operates in a professional manner that reflects the true values of this country.

The committee did its work. It questioned Mr. Panetta on a broad array of issues he will confront as Director of the CIA, and it submitted followup questions, all of which were answered.

These questions, and Mr. Panetta's answers, can be found at the Intelligence Committee Web site.

I urge all Members of the Senate, as well as the public, to review them in order to obtain a better understanding of his views about the office to which he has been nominated.

I am pleased to report that yesterday the Intelligence Committee voted unanimously to report favorably the nomination of Leon Panetta to be the Director of the CIA. He has the confidence of the committee, and we believe we will be able to work closely with him during his tenure.

Leon Panetta will mark a new beginning for the CIA as its next Director.

He has the integrity, the drive and the judgment to ensure that the CIA fulfills its mission of producing information critical to our national security, without sacrificing our national values.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

COLONEL JOHN H. WILSON, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 21, S. 234.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 234) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2105 East Cook Street in Springfield, Illinois, as the ''Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 234) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 234

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COLONEL JOHN H. WILSON, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2105 East Cook Street in Springfield, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the ''Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building''.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF OREGON STATEHOOD

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 48, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 48) honoring the sesquicentennial of Oregon statehood.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

(Mr. BEGICH assumed the Chair.)

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, we rise to offer this resolution in recognition of a historic day for my STATE and the people of Oregon. On February 14, 1859, 150 years ago, President James Buchanan signed the bill that admitted Oregon as the 33rd STATE to join this great union.

Mr. President, 150 years ago, there were barely 50,000 people living in Oregon. Pictures from that era show hearty men and women standing in mud streets in front of clapboard buildings. That would soon change as thousands migrated across the continent on the Oregon Trail, a trek that would become synonymous with the American spirit.

Those who made that arduous journey were not nomads aimlessly wandering the land looking for a quick buck. They came with a purpose: to work hard and to make a new start in a new land. And what a new land it was. Oregon was graced by providence with endless forests, rivers teeming with fish, fertile valleys, majestic mountains, a dramatic coast line, and rugged high deserts.

Today, more than 3,500,000 people live in Oregon, which continues to boast some of the NATION's most unique and beautiful forests, farm lands, mountains, coast line and high deserts. They still beckon to those who seek a better life, much in the same way as those who endured the Oregon Trail. In some parts of Oregon the tracks made by the pioneers covered wagons are still visible, forever etched in the landscape.

Oregon has its geographic icons such as the Columbia River, Crater Lake, and Mount Hood. It has its great names: Wayne Morse, Mark Hatfield, Tom McCall. It has been a national leader with innovations such as an initiative stem that dates back to the turn of the last century, a beach bill, a bottle bill and a statewide land use planning process to protect those things that brought people to Oregon in the first place.