

over the course of her impressive career. I look forward to working with her upon her confirmation, which, I trust, will be accomplished today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont has 1 minute 50 seconds.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Is there any time remaining on the minority side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 52 seconds.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to use the last minute to thank a number of our staff. They have worked exceedingly hard during the course of this nomination. We are enormously grateful to them: Mark Childress, Jeff Huang, Brian Lee, Susan Green, Stephanie Williams, and Nick Littlefield. I know that Senator JEFFORDS will recognize his own staff, but we want to thank as well Mark Powden very much, and Scott Giles. They worked very closely with Todd Stern at the White House, and all of them deserve great thanks. They were of enormous help and assistance not only to Alexis Herman but to all the members of the committee, and we are grateful as always for their skill and their commitment to this institution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I first of all want to thank the majority leader and majority whip for the expeditious way they have handled the resolution with respect to the Executive order. I know they dedicated the time necessary to make sure this got done as efficiently and as effectively as possible so we could move this nomination along.

I also want to thank the members of my committee, especially the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] for the way they controlled themselves and were able to, after a rather extensive amount of time required to fully review the nominee's record, bring this nomination before the body today. And of course, as Senator KENNEDY mentioned, I cannot tell anyone how hard the staff worked on this particular nomination, probably harder than any other nomination at least in my memory, especially Ted Verheggen and Scott Giles of the majority as well as the minority staff, especially Mark Childress, whom Senator KENNEDY mentioned. This took undue hours of committee staff time as well as members to review all of the material that was available.

I am pleased now that we have brought this to a conclusion. I would point out that the Labor Committee was unanimous in its vote with respect to nominee, and I urge all Members to support a woman who I know will bring real credit to the office of the Secretary of Labor.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of time and ask for the yeas and nays on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Alexis M. Herman to be Secretary of Labor. On this question the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] and the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN] would vote "aye".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced, yeas 85, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 54 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Abraham	Enzi	Lott
Akaka	Feingold	Mack
Ashcroft	Feinstein	McCain
Baucus	Ford	McConnell
Bennett	Frist	Mikulski
Biden	Glenn	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Gorton	Murkowski
Bond	Graham	Murray
Boxer	Grams	Nickles
Breaux	Grassley	Reed
Brownback	Gregg	Reid
Bryan	Harkin	Robb
Bumpers	Hatch	Rockefeller
Burns	Hollings	Roth
Byrd	Hutchinson	Santorum
Chafee	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Cleland	Jeffords	Sessions
Coats	Johnson	Shelby
Cochran	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Collins	Kennedy	Snowe
Conrad	Kerrey	Specter
Coverdell	Kerry	Stevens
D'Amato	Kohl	Thurmond
Daschle	Kyl	Torricelli
DeWine	Landrieu	Warner
Dodd	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Domenici	Leahy	Wyden
Dorgan	Levin	
Durbin	Lieberman	

NAYS—13

Allard	Hagel	Smith (NH)
Campbell	Helms	Thomas
Craig	Inhofe	Thompson
Faircloth	Lugar	
Gramm	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—2

Inouye	Moynihan
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The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the nomination was confirmed.

Mr. KENNEDY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am delighted that this unconscionable delay has ended and Alexis Herman has, at long last, been confirmed as Secretary of Labor. It was a mistake for the Republican leadership to hold her nomination hostage on a separate labor issue.

The compromise on that issue is entirely satisfactory. President Clinton

gave up nothing substantial. Project labor agreements will be considered and given important new emphasis by all Federal agencies on appropriate Federal construction projects.

I look forward to working closely with Secretary Herman on the wide range of issues important to working families and communities across America.

The big winners today are these working families. Alexis Herman will do an excellent job speaking for them.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Ohio.

ANOTHER AVOIDABLE TRAGEDY

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, last Saturday's Washington Post told the story of a devastating, but avoidable, tragedy. It is the story of a little 5-year-old boy in Montgomery County, MD, who was locked in his bedroom for 22 hours a day, tied to his bed with a cat leash. This little boy's mouth was taped shut, his hands and his feet were bound together. Little Richard Holmes suffered the kind of abuse that no child in this country, or anywhere, ought to suffer.

That there are 3 million reports of child abuse in America every year is a tragedy, but there is an even deeper tragedy in cases like that of Richard Holmes. It is the tragedy of a system that tries too hard to keep some families together when they are families in name only.

According to the story in the Washington Post, Richard's grandmother and his aunt complained to Montgomery County child protection services that Richard was being abused. They made this complaint last year, describing to county officials how Richard was returning home from visits to his father famished and with bite marks—bite marks—on his arms. Their complaints were ignored. In fact, they were accused of being troublemakers. Richard's father and his girlfriend are now