

reserve, in which a joint team of Federal and State scientists will make recommendations on where fishing should occur and at what level.

A further special provision is also included in one area where there is significant potential for conflict between fishermen and certain limited non-motorized uses, such as kayaking, during the brief 3-month summer period.

This area is in the Beardslee Islands, near the entrance of the bay. Under this bill, the only commercial fishing that would be allowed in the Beardslees would be crab fishing, and that only in a very small area, by a very small number of people who historically are dependent on this fishing—less than a dozen people. This would only include people who can show both a significant history of participation and a real dependence on that fishery for their livelihoods. This privilege could be transferred to one successor, when the original fisherman retires, but will cease after that. And at any point the Park Service could eliminate all fishing in the Beardslees with a fair payment to the individual fisherman.

The reason for such a special rule in the Beardslees is simply that these fishermen have no other option than fishing in the Beardslees, due to the small size of their vessels and their reliance on this one fishery, and a few other factors.

So this bill will not contribute to any increase in fishing. In fact, over time the opposite may occur. It will simply provide for the scientifically sound continuation of an environmentally benign activity. Finally, I think it's important also to note that the continuation of both subsistence and commercial fishing enjoys wide support from local residents of Southeastern Alaska, including environmental groups such as the Southeastern Alaska Conservation Council.

I look to my colleagues for support on the merits of the bill.

Mr. President, I see no other Senators in the Chamber. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, we had a very unfortunate story appear in the Washington Post this morning by Helen Dewar.

The first paragraph:

President Clinton had "some choice words" about the pace of Senate action on administration nominations during a Wednesday night meeting with Senate Democrats.

And then it quotes our distinguished minority leader:

Daschle estimated there are 30 ambassadorial nominations awaiting action for countries that, according to a Senate list, include Britain, France, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia and, as of Tuesday, Mexico.

This is ill-placed and irresponsible criticism and does not serve the efficient management of these nominations. I read the article while I was conducting a hearing that we had hurried to deal with the nomination of the Ambassadors for Guyana and Paraguay. I have just left a meeting with the potential nominee for Ambassador to France, and I spent the better part of the last month doing everything we might do to get our Ambassador to Canada, which, I might add, has been without an ambassador for over a year and a half. We just received the nomination for that Ambassador on July 2—July 2—of this year. The vacancy began in April 1996—Canada. And there have been extended vacancies in Germany, Moscow, et cetera.

To clarify, this year, we have had 56 nominations received by the Foreign Relations Committee; 14 have been confirmed, 9 are pending on the Executive Calendar; 33 are pending in the committee. That sounds like a lot. But the issue is, 26 of the 44 we have just received in the last month. I repeat, there are 44 pending in the committee; 26 of them we have just gotten.

The problem here is not in the Senate, nor is it in the Foreign Relations Committee. The problem with ambassadorial nominations is at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

I point out that Tokyo has been vacant since December, and we have no nominee. South Korea has been vacant since December, and we have no nominee. These are not just incidental relationships, I might add. We are talking about Japan and South Korea.

So, Mr. President, I think those were unfortunate words, and they paint an improper and inappropriate picture, and they do not help anything. I assume they are just ill-informed. But when you are going to make accusations of this kind, and you are the President of the United States, the word travels far. I think it would be more prudent to have your own description of the condition before you start hurling spears, because this kind of thing only confuses the process and makes the work of both the Senate and the administration much more complicated.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, partisan politics, I guess, is a game like foot-

ball, baseball, or checkers, and that game has, no doubt, been played in the Senate for as long as there has been a Senate. In it, you win some, you lose some, and, as the saying goes, some are rained out. It has been suggested from time to time that maybe a time or two I have played a little bit of it myself, and I plead *nolo contendere* to the suggestion.

But the game, it seems to me, that the distinguished minority leader, Mr. DASCHLE, has been playing of late has sometimes been marked by a rather interesting degree of misstatements of fact—unintentional, I'm sure—and curious conclusions. That, too, has not been unknown heretofore in the history of the Senate. And I do not suggest that the minority leader's misstatements or insinuations are deliberate, and I am willing to assume that his errors are accidental and unintentional.

Just the same, my observations this afternoon are based on my incredulous reaction early this morning when I read an article in the Washington Post, page A21, under a headline reading "Confirmation Process Frustrates President." That was, of course, Mr. Clinton, with whom Senator DASCHLE says he met this past Wednesday night. It indicates that Senator DASCHLE confided to the Washington Post's very competent reporter, Helen Dewar, that—and I quote from Ms. Dewar's story—"The President . . . expressed probably the highest level of exasperation I've heard him express on the subject, Daschle said, making clear that he (Senator DASCHLE) shares Clinton's frustration."

Further, according to Ms. Dewar's report, "[Senator] Daschle estimated that there are 30 ambassadorial nominations awaiting action for countries that, according to a Senate list, include Britain, France, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, and, as of Tuesday, Mexico."

Well, Mr. President, if Mr. Clinton and Mr. DASCHLE are suffering their "highest levels of exasperation," and if the President uttered the "choice words" attributed to him by Senator DASCHLE regarding the work of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, then I suggest that both gentlemen dismount their high horses, examine the true facts, and correct their joint misstatements about the excellent work of the Foreign Relations Committee, which I have the honor of serving as chairman, with Senator JOE BIDEN as the ranking member.

What the President is purported to have implied—and Mr. DASCHLE says he agrees with it—is nonsense, I say respectfully; it is nonsense regarding the work and cooperation of the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which Adm. "Bud" Nance is the Chief of Staff. Bud Nance is among the top chiefs of staff ever to serve the Senate's committees, and I believe Mr. Clinton's State Department will join