

I am hopeful we will be able to work this out and provide affordable prescription drug coverage for seniors through legislation considered by the Senate Finance Committee. This is a top priority of mine and many of my colleagues in the Senate. We have been hearing from seniors for years about their need for Medicare prescription drug benefits. Why are we playing political games with such an important issue?

I encourage my colleagues to work with us, to work with the Tripartisan group and others. I believe there is a majority, a significant majority, if we were allowed to do what is right, who would vote for the Tripartisan bill so seniors would finally get what they truly deserve, prescription drug coverage for the Medicare Program and bring Medicare into the 21st century once and for all.

Medicare beneficiaries deserve that opportunity. We owe it to them. This bill would allow that to happen.

I have been told this debate will take 2 weeks. I don't know why it has to take 2 weeks. We have three, four, or five different plans. We can vote on them. I personally hope we can vote on them. I believe if we are allowed to vote on them and people will get rid of the political aspects, we will pass a bill that will work this year for the benefit of seniors in the years to come. The Tripartisan bill does not have a sunset. The Tripartisan bill would continue on forever as far as we are concerned, to the benefit of all seniors in this country. I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands

in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2002.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:33 p.m. adjourned until Wednesday, July 17, 2002, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 16, 2002:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

ROEL C. CAMPOS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2005, VICE ISAAC C. HUNT, JR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANTONIO O. GARZA, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MEXICO.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5044:

To be general

LT. GEN. WILLIAM L. NYLAND, 0000