

Today, this body has the opportunity to confirm an excellent nominee with the skills, with the experience, and the character to help bring our students of all ages and backgrounds along the pathway to fulfill their own version of the American dream. I am confident we can do so, and provide our children and students of all ages with an effective advocate at the Department of Education.

Thank you, Mr. President. I think all Members who wish to speak on this have spoken.

I ask unanimous consent that all time remaining on both sides be yielded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. I ask the Senate to proceed to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Margaret Spellings, of Texas, to be Secretary of Education?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business under any unanimous consent, I ask to be recognized to speak as if in morning business.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you, Mr. President.

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, first, let me congratulate the new chairman of the HELP Committee, the Senator from Wyoming, for his leadership. I wish him the same level of success for everything he brings to the floor—that it be both bipartisan and moved through so quickly. I think our decision to move the Secretary of Education so quickly was the right decision. I was happy to join in that vote.

I wish the chairman the very best in his new assignment on the committee.

There are several nominations that are likely to move through with equal dispatch—if not today, within the next few days.

It has been my honor to meet with the new Secretary of Commerce-Designate, Carlos Gutierrez, who was formerly the CEO of Kellogg, and is now taking on this post. He is new to Government but he brings an amazing perspective to the Department of Commerce. I am certain his nomination will move through very quickly. I am certain he will do a very good job.

The same thing can be said of the Governor of Nebraska, Mike Johanns, who has been tapped by the President to serve as the new Secretary of Agriculture. He and I had a very positive conversation and dialog yesterday. He is from Iowa originally. He went to law school in Nebraska and made it his home. He was elected Governor. Having grown up on a dairy farm in Iowa, he understands farming first hand. We had a very positive conversation. He succeeds an excellent Secretary, Ann Veneman, who now will go on to be the head of UNICEF.

Mike Johanns was an excellent choice by President Bush and was confirmed without any debate or controversy. I say that because many people think when it comes to the Senate floor it is nothing but a fistfight every single day. That is not a fact. We will disagree, but in many instances the President's recommendations are approved without controversy and without debate. Every White House prays that every recommendation, every nomination, and every bill will have the same outcome. That is never the case. We will do our best to work with this President. Coming together today, in this session, immediately after the inauguration, is an indication of our efforts to do so.

#### INAUGURATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I will speak for a moment about the inauguration we just attended. First, I address an issue of style which was brought to my attention earlier this week in Chicago. One of my acquaintances is a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times. His name is Neil Steinberg. Mr. Steinberg recently wrote "Hatless Jack." It is the story about men wearing hats in America. It was a good conversation we had about his book.

It starts with the premise that some 44 years ago today with the inauguration of John Kennedy, there was a change in fashion in America and men stopped wearing hats. Mr. Steinberg debunks that notion but goes into a very interesting history of not only John Kennedy wearing a hat but also hats in America.

People remember that inauguration 44 years ago. Seven inches of snow fell the day before. Some 3,000 soldiers were on the street overnight shoveling the snow, using flamethrowers to try to melt the snow to make way for the inauguration the next day.

The inauguration started an hour late. Senator Kennedy, of course, became the President and gave his famous speech: Ask not what America can do for you but what you can do for your country. Robert Frost was at that occasion. People seem to remember there were no hats there, that John Kennedy did not wear a hat. They mistakenly blame him for killing an industry.

I wish those same people could have been out today for the inauguration

and seen my colleagues in the House and Senate. There were some amazing hats being worn. There are very few other times my colleagues would wear one. We had Senator BAUCUS and Senator HATCH in cowboy hats, Senator DEWINE in his bowler, Alan Greenspan with his Yankees baseball hat—quite an array, not to mention Justice Scalia's hat, which I cannot describe.

I say this by way of introduction. There is a style issue here that someone should report. I thank Mr. Steinberg for bringing this historical notion to our attention, that the inauguration today raises questions which I am sure an enterprising journalist will follow up on.

Let's go to the substance of the speech and what happened today. Clearly, there were disappointments on the Democratic side of the aisle. Many Members worked long and hard for our colleagues JOHN KERRY and Senator John Edwards on their candidacy. I served as vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee and traveled to many of the battleground States on their behalf. I saw an outpouring of volunteer support for that campaign that I had never seen before in any previous campaign. There was also an outpouring of small donations, an indication of the interest the American people had in that campaign.

Of course, there was a bitter disappointment among those on the Democratic side with the outcome on November 2. I am glad Senator KERRY came forward on November 3 and said, clearly, that he was conceding the election and that America should move on with its new President, President George Bush, who was then reelected.

Many people contacted me and expressed the sadness and bitterness and disappointment, as you might expect, after a hotly contested election. It is a fact of life that America is very closely divided politically. Had one State, the State of Ohio, gone the other way and the electors pledged to JOHN KERRY rather than to President Bush, we would have sworn in JOHN KERRY today as President of the United States. The margin in Ohio was 118,000 votes. So still we see our Nation divided, blue States and red States, though there is a lot of commonality within those States on issues of importance.

I listened to the President's speech today. It was a good one. Many people mistakenly believe the inaugural address is the State of the Union. It is not. Most Presidents use the inaugural address to make a statement that will stand the test of time, that will last through history. It does not address the morning paper so much as the summation of what has happened in America over the last year, two, three, or four. That is what President Bush did in his speech today.

I thought the direction of that speech toward freedom was an important point. It is one that every American and every American President would share—not only that we value our own