

of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Bertha K. Madras, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

George E.B. Holding, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

PEACE CORPS

Ronald A. Tschetter, of Minnesota, to be Director of the Peace Corps.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

John C. Rood, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Security and Non-Proliferation).

Cesar Benito Cabrera, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Seychelles.

Mary Martin Ourisman, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, September 14. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be considered approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the first 15 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final 15 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; further, that following morning business the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4954, the port security bill.

I further ask unanimous consent that there be 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form, followed by a vote on the cloture motion.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will finish consider-

ation of the port security bill. The cloture vote will occur at approximately 11 a.m. The leader urges our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for cloture so that we can expedite passage of this important bill. Following the cloture vote, the bill's manager will work through the remaining amendments. Senators should expect votes throughout the day.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
FOR EVERY PORT ACT—Continued

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4954, the port security bill.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all second-degree amendments be filed at the desk by 10 a.m. tomorrow.

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 4924, AS MODIFIED; 4928; 4932; 4933; 4939, AS MODIFIED; 4946, AS MODIFIED; 4950, AS MODIFIED; 4949; 4951; 4953; 4954, AS MODIFIED; 4955; 4959, AS MODIFIED; 4964; 4976; 4985, AS MODIFIED; 4988, AS MODIFIED; 5000; AND 4947, AS MODIFIED

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I send to the desk a package of amendments. I would like to read them: amendment No. 4924, as modified, for Senator ROCKEFELLER; amendment No. 4928, for Senator BINGAMAN; amendment No. 4932, for Senator DOMENICI; amendment No. 4933, for Senator DOMENICI; amendment No. 4939, as modified, for Senator KERRY; amendment No. 4946, as modified, for Senator BURNS; amendment No. 4950, as modified, for Senator CANTWELL; amendment No. 4949, for Senator CANTWELL; amendment No. 4951, for Senator McCAIN; amendment No. 4953, for Senator VITTER; amendment No. 4954, as modified, for Senator SNOWE; amendment No. 4955, for Senator ALLARD; amendment No. 4959, as modified, for Senator PRYOR; amendment No. 4964, for Senator BURNS; amendment No. 4976, for Senator BOXER; amendment No. 4985, as modified, for Senator BAUCUS; amendment No. 4988, as modified, for Senator LAUTENBERG; amendment No. 5000, for Senator SNOWE; and amendment No. 4947, as modified, for Senator BURNS.

I ask unanimous consent that these amendments be considered en bloc, adopted en bloc, and I move to reconsider that action.

Mrs. MURRAY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

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

The amendments were agreed to en bloc as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4924, AS MODIFIED

SEC. —. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 314. COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall establish a competitive research program within the Directorate.

“(2) DIRECTOR.—The program shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary. The Director shall report to the Under Secretary.

“(3) DUTIES OF DIRECTOR.—In the administration of the program, the Director shall—

“(A) establish a cofunding mechanism for States with academic facilities that have not fully developed security-related science and technology to support burgeoning research efforts by the faculty or link them to established investigators;

“(B) provide for conferences, workshops, outreach, and technical assistance to researchers and institutions of higher education in States on topics related to developing science and technology expertise in areas of high interest and relevance to the Department;

“(C) monitor the efforts of States to develop programs that support the Department's mission;

“(D) implement a merit review program, consistent with program objectives, to ensure the quality of research conducted with Program funding; and

“(E) provide annual reports on the progress and achievements of the Program to the Secretary.

“(b) ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM.—

“(1) SCOPE.—The Director shall provide assistance under the program for research and development projects that are related to, or qualify as, homeland security research (as defined in section 307(a)(2)) under the program.

“(2) FORM OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance under the program can take the form of grants, contracts, or cooperative arrangements.

“(3) APPLICATIONS.—Applicants shall submit proposals or applications in such form, at such times, and containing such information as the Director may require.

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(1) START-UP PHASES.—For the first 3 fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of the Border Infrastructure and Technology Integration Act of 2004, assistance under the program shall be limited to institutions of higher education located in States in which an institution of higher education with a grant from, or a contract or cooperative agreement with, the National Science Foundation under section 113 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1862) is located.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the 4th fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall rank order the States (excluding any noncontiguous State (as defined in section 2(14)) other than Alaska, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) in descending order in terms of the average amount of funds received by institutions of higher education (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) in each State that received financial assistance in the form of grants, contracts, or cooperative arrangements under