Mr. REED. Mr. President, with respect to the nominations confirmed today, I ask unanimous consent that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and that the Senate return to legislative session.

The Acting President pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Acting President pro tempore. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Inaugural Ceremony proceedings be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, at 12:01 p.m.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama, January 20, 2009, 11:30 a.m.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff assembled on the President’s platform.

The Diplomatic Corps assembled on the President’s platform.

The Governors of the United States and its territories and the Mayor of the District of Columbia assembled on the President’s platform.

Members of the 111th House of Representatives of the United States, led by majority whip James E. Clyburn and Republican whip Eric Cantor, assembled on the President’s platform.

Members of the Senate of the United States assembled on the President’s platform.

Former Speakers of the House of Representatives, Thomas Foley and Newt Gingrich, accompanied by Mrs. Foley and Mrs. Gingrich, assembled on the President’s platform.

Former Vice Presidents Walter Mondale, Dan Quayle, and Al Gore, accompanied by Mrs. Mondale, Mrs. Quayle, and Mrs. Gore, assembled on the President’s platform.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Daley, Mr. Pritzker, Mr. John W. Rogers, Jr., Mr. Patrick G. Ryan, and Ms. Julianna Smoot, cochairs of the 56th Presidential Inaugural Committee; and Mr. Emmett S. Beliveau, executive director of the 56th Presidential Inaugural Committee, assembled on the President’s platform.

The President-elect’s Cabinet and agency designees assembled on the President’s platform.

The Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable Roberts, Jr., and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States assembled on the President’s platform.

The 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter assembled on the President’s platform.

The 41st President of the United States, George H.W. Bush, and Mrs. Barbara Bush assembled on the President’s platform.

The 42nd President of the United States, West Jefferson Clinton, and Senator Hillary Clinton assembled on the President’s platform.

The children of the Vice President-elect, CPT Beau Biden, Hunter Biden, and Ashley Biden, accompanied by House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard, assembled on the President’s platform.

Mrs. Marian Robinson and the daughters of the President-elect, Malia and Sasha Obama, accompanied by Assistant Secretary of the Senate Sheila Dwyer, assembled on the President’s platform.

The First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush, and the wife of the Vice President, Mrs. Lynne Cheney, accompanied by Associate Justice Chao, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Boehner, and Republican staff director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Mary Suit Jones, assembled on the President’s platform.

Mrs. Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, accompanied by the Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson; the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mr. Blunt; Mr. Pelosi; and Mrs. Reid, assembled on the President’s platform.

The President of the United States, the Honorable George Walker Bush, and the Vice President of the United States, Dick Cheney, accompanied by Senator Republican leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Robert Bennett, House Republican leader, Representative John Boehner, and Secretary for the minority David Schiappa, assembled on the President’s platform.

The President-elect of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., accompanied by the inaugural coordinator for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, Jennifer Griffith; Senate Deputy Sergeant at Arms Drew Wilson; House Deputy Sergeant at Arms Anthony G. Perocchi; and majority leader, Senator Harry Reid; House majority leader, Representative Steny Hoyer, assembled on the President’s platform.

The President-elect of the United States, Barack H. Obama, accompanied by the staff director for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, Howard Gantman; the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Terrence W. Gainer; the House Sergeant at Arms, Wilson Livingood; chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, Senator Dianne Feinstein; Senator Robert Bennett; the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi; the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid; House majority leader, Representative Steny Hoyer; House Republican leader, Representative John Boehner, assembled on the President’s platform.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President and Vice President, Mr. President-elect and Vice President-elect,請 allow me to welcome you all to this historic moment as we celebrate the inauguration of our 44th President.

As we gather in this peaceful transition of power, our hearts are filled with gratitude and our spirits are lifted by the hopeful dreams that lie ahead.

Today marks a new beginning for America. It is a day of promise, a day of possibility, a day of hope and promise.

We come together to celebrate a new era of leadership, guided by a President who understands the power of hope and the importance of unity.

Together, we will work to build a future that is worthy of our great nation.

Our challenge is to ensure that every voice is heard, every dream is valued, and every opportunity is realized.

As we look to the future, we must remember the lessons of the past.

We must learn from the examples of those who came before us, and draw inspiration from their triumphs.

We must also acknowledge the struggles of those who have faced adversity and overcome obstacles.

Today, we celebrate the strength and resilience of the American people.

We honor the sacrifices of those who have served our nation.

We remember the courage of those who have stood up for what is right.

We are reminded of the importance of freedom, justice, and equality.

We are called to be a nation that is free of discrimination, free of prejudice, and free of bias.

We are called to be a nation that is united, that is strong, and that is prosperous.

We are called to be a nation that is worthy of the dreams and aspirations of all Americans.

As we gather here today, let us remember the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."
Court of the United States John Paul Stevens, who will administer the oath of office to the Vice President-elect. Will you all please stand.

As President, JOHNNY ROBINS, JR., do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will faithfully execute the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

(Applause.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. It is my pleasure to introduce a unique musical performance: Mr. Itzhak Perlman, violinist; Anthony McGill, clarinet; Yo-Yo Ma, cellist; and Gabriela Montero, pianist, performing "Air and Simple Gifts," a composition arranged for this occasion by John Williams. (Performance by Mr. Yo-Yo Ma, Mr. Anthony McGill, Gabriela Montero, and Mr. Itzhak Perlman.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. It is my distinct honor to present the Chief Justice of the United States, John G. Roberts, Jr., who will administer the President's oath of office. Everyone, please stand.

The Chief Justice, John G. ROBERTS, JR., administered to the President-elect the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, which he repeated, as follows:"

"I, BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. So help me God."

THE CHIEF JUSTICE. Congratulations, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great personal honor to present the 44th President of these United States, Barack Obama.

(Applause.)

The President. Thank you. Thank you. My fellow citizens, I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors. I thank President George W. Bush for his service to our Nation, as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition. For Forty-four Americans have now taken the Presidential oath. The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often, the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. At these moments, America has carried on not simply because of the size of our economy or the invincible spirit of our people, but because we have remade ourselves and outlasted our doubts. At these moments, we are the keepers of our founding documents, the thermometer of our progress, the compass of our values, and the steward of our ideals. Our battles were won not on the battlefield, but in the hearts and minds of men and women who rose up to choose liberty over war, progress over destruction, freedom over oppression.

This is the journey we continue today. We remain the most prosperous, powerful Nation on Earth. Our workers are no less productive, our goods and services no less inventive, our minds no less curious, our imaginations are joined to common purpose as we begin the work of remaking America.

(Applause.)

For everywhere we look, there is work to be done and a mandate to lead—calls for action, bold and swift. And we will act, not only to create new jobs but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We will restore science to its rightful place and wield technology’s wonders to raise health care’s quality and lower its costs. We will harness the Sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. All this we will do.

Now, there are some who question the scale of our task. They insist that the path we have chosen offers no more than temporary solace. They say that our society cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short. For they have forgotten what this country has already done, what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose and necessity to courage. What the cynics forecast, and others profess, have never been our lot. We are a nation of imaginers and doers; our histories were written by men and women who neither waited nor wished, but acted and accomplished. Our Founding Fathers did not merely pass bills; they wrote them. They packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life. For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West, endured the harsh of war and fired the torch of freedom. For we, they fought and died in places like Concord and Gettysburg, Normandy and Khe Sahn.

Time and again, these men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked until their hands were raw so that we might live a better life. They saw America as bigger than all the differences of birth or wealth or color. They were one in their devotion to the cause of freedom and one in their desire for a better future. They understood that the ground has been prepared by the heroism of our ancestors, that the works of our forebears are living testimonies to the rights of man, a charter expanded by the conscience of our conscience and the sacrifice of our sons. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for the false promises of a dark age that promises peace without peace, safety without security, prosperity without progress, freedom without dignity. The answer is, yes, we intend to move forward as one nation—one people—to restore what we hope in America—what we feel in America, a country once again majestic in all our finest traditions, strong and shiny. We will neighbor and not just because it is the surest route to our common good.

(Applause.)

We respond to a common defense, we reject as the false choice between our safety and our ideals. Our Founding Fathers, faced with perils that we can scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the survival of our democracy. They understood that our power alone cannot protect us, nor does our prosperity, on the ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart—not out of charity but because it is the surest route to our common good.

For us, this is the journey we continue today. We remain the most prosperous, powerful Nation on Earth. Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less valuable, our companies no less skilled, our communities no less resilient, than all the differences of birth or wealth or color. Our workers are no less productive, our goods and services no less inventive, than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less curious, our imaginations are joined to common purpose as we begin the work of remaking America.

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but believe that the old hatreds shall some-
day pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon
dissolve; that as the world grows smaller,
our common humanity shall reveal itself;
and that men shall live together in our
Earth in a new era of peace.

To the Muslim world, we seek a new way
forward based on mutual interest and mu-
tual respect. To those leaders and peo-
globe who seek to sow conflict or blame
their society's ills on the West, know that your
people will judge you on what you can build,
not what you destroy.

(Applause.)

To those who claim power through corrup-
tion and violence, we know that you do not
know that you are on the wrong side of his-
tory but that we will extend a hand if you
are willing to unclench your fist.

(Governmental agencies, leaders, and pub-
lic figures)

To the people of poor nations, we pledge
to work alongside you to make your farms
flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish
starved bodies and feed hungry minds. And
to those nations like ours that enjoy relative
plenty, we say we can no longer afford indif-
ference to the suffering outside our borders,
or consuming the world's resources
without regard to effect. For the world has
changed, and we must change with it.

As we speak to one another, as we listen
to one another, we will find that we are
sibling and related, and we will find that
we are all children of the living God.

We cross dirt roads and highways that mark
the part of every American, that we have du-

All about us is noise. All about us is noise
and bramble, thorn and din, each one of
our ancestors on our tongues.

Some live by love thy neighbor as thy self,
and there is nothing that can be made,
the glittering edifices they would
build, nor can the brick the
smoke but also a parent's willingness to nur-

embrace what is right. Let all those who do
so much to preserve our way of life,
who strive against the encroachments of
decadence, who seek and cherish
their values and their traditions,
who have the heart of love and the
will to create, to defend, to

We thank You for the empowering of Thy
servant, our 44th President, to inspire our
Nation to believe in the power of
the faith and determination of the American
people who have shared with us
in the struggle for freedom, and to
rise to the challenge.

God bless you. And God bless
the United States of America.

(Applause.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I have the distinct pleas-
ure of introducing an American poet, Eliza-
abeth Alexander. 

Ms. ALEXANDER. "Praise Song for the
Day."

Each day we go about our business, walking
past each other, catching each other's
eyes or not, about to speak or speak-

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MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the President Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 249

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 249, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify formerly homeless youth who are students for purposes of low income tax credit.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to my Republican colleagues for the unanimous-consent request I am going to offer at this time, which has been approved, as I understand it, by the Republican leader and the other Senators.

Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that tomorrow, January 21, at the hour of 12 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of HILLARY CLINTON to be Secretary of State; that there be 3 hours of debate, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination of Senator CLINTON; that on confirmation, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no other motions be in order; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess for our usual party luncheons, and that the recess begin, if it is appropriate with the distinguished Republican leader, at 12:45 p.m., rather than at 12:30, so some debate can move forward.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if the majority leader would yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would be happy to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Is the Senator suggesting that the time on Senator CLINTON’s nomination run through the luncheons?

Mr. REID. Well, what I would like to do: We would stop at a quarter to 1 and come back at 2:15 to complete that debate at that time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. That is fine.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

THANKING SENATOR ALEXANDER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to the distinguished Senator from Tennessee for his usual courtesies. He had to wait for me to get here, and I appreciate his withholding until the Republican leader and I got here. The Senator from Tennessee is always a gentleman, and even though he and I do not agree once in a while on political issues, we always agree he is a gentleman.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his remarks. Unless the Republican leader has some remarks, I would like to say a couple things.

AMERICA: A REMARKABLE COUNTRY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, in August 1963, I was a law student and a summer intern in the U.S. Department of Justice here in Washington. I was standing at the back of a huge crowd on a hot day when Dr. King spoke of his dream that one day his children would be judged not “by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

The inauguration of our former colleague, Barack Obama, the day after Dr. King’s birthday, symbolizes both remarkable progress on America’s most intractable problem—race—and a reaffirmation of our country’s most unique characteristic—a fervent belief that anything is possible.

I thought about this in the same way 4 years ago at almost this time. I formed a speech in my head that I wanted to make, but I did not make it. Senator SALAZAR is now going into President Obama’s Cabinet to be Secretary of the Interior; Mr. MARTINEZ, having had a long career in public life as mayor in Orlando, as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, as U.S. Senator, is going on to other things in his life. Former Senator Obama, of course, is now the President of the United States.

But what struck me was that his grandmother was in the gallery that day. It was either his grandmother or his grandfather, I believe it was his grandfather. His father’s parent was in the gallery that day. The first trip, I believe, from Africa to this country. He had a remarkable story. His grandmother, who was in the gallery that day. It was either his grandmother or his grandfather, I believe it was his grandfather. His father’s parent was in the gallery that day. The first trip, I believe, from Africa to this country. He had a remarkable story.

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