The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Costello).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:
WASHINGTON, DC.
I hereby appoint the Honorable Jerry P. Costello to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.
NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Pledge of Allegiance
The Speaker pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hare) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mr. HARE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resignation as Member of Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans’ Affairs
The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans’ Affairs:

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Speaker pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

Pledge of Allegiance
The Speaker pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hare) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mr. HARE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resignation as Member of Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans’ Affairs
The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans’ Affairs:

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Speaker pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

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The Speaker pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hare) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.
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The Speaker pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

Pledge of Allegiance
The Speaker pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hare) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mr. HARE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans’ Affairs:

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Speaker pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.
The Sergeant-at-Arms will precede the procession bearing the mace. Members will be escorted to the west terrace in order of seniority. At this time, Members, the Resident Commissioner and Delegates should congregate in the well by class.

Pursuant to House Resolution 61, upon completion of the ceremony, the House will stand adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Pursuant to House Resolution 23, Members will now proceed to the west front to attend the inaugural ceremonies for the President and Vice President of the United States.

Whereupon, at 10 o’clock and 7 minutes a.m., the Members of the House, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Speaker, proceeded to the west front of the Capitol.

ADJOURNMENT

At the conclusion of the inaugural ceremonies (at 12 o’clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House, without returning to its Chamber, adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

169. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy, transmitting the results of a public-private competition, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 2462(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

170. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department’s final rule — National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) — received January 7, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

171. A letter from the Safety Engineer, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Clarification Safety and Health Administration [Docket No. OSHA-2009-0031] (RIN 1218-AC42) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

172. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations [Docket No.: FDA-2000-N-0011] (formerly Docket No. 2000N-1596) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

173. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(1) Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Huntsville, Alabama) [MB Docket No.: 08-194] received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

175. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s intent to sign a Project Arrangement among the Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States, concerning Co-Operative Software and Systems Upgrade Requirements Management: C-130 Blocks 9 & 10, Transmittal No. 20-08, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

176. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Ms. Schakowsky.
The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BERNARD SANDERS, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even before the Earth was framed, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

On this historic day we ask Your richest blessings upon President Barack Obama, Vice President JOSEPH BIDEN, and the members of the Cabinet. O God, in these challenging times, help them to trust You with all their hearts and to depend upon Your providence to lead and guide them to Your desired destination.

In a special way today, we ask for Your healing hands to be placed upon Senator TEDDY KENNEDY. O, God, You are a healer and we claim Your promise that, if we will ask in faith, You will respond.

We thank You for what our eyes have seen and what our ears have heard on this great day.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Honorable BERNARD SANDERS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a letter to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

Before I do, I would be remiss if I did not at this time talk about what it was like to be at the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States. This is my ninth inauguration. My first was Jimmy Carter when I was a freshman Congressman in 1977 and then two Reagans, Bush, two Clintons, two more Bushes. And so this is my ninth. I can tell you, I have never seen anything such as this. To be out there today, I mean this is once in history that something such as this happens. I was watching a television program yesterday, a news program, and JIM CLYBURN, our colleague on the House side, was talking about the importance of today and what it meant to him.

He went on to talk about not only himself but so many people from where he is from in South Carolina and other places, elsewhere. He said, I remember my grandparents telling me about their parents being slaves and how close the connection was. And to think that today America saw inaugurated as our 44th President an African-American.

Not only does this say a great deal about Barack Obama, but it says a great deal about America and how far we have come. Someone asked me what I thought earlier about his speech. I thought three things: uplifting, sobering, and challenging. I think that is what we want from a President. We want a President who will lift us up, a President who will be honest and square with us but a President who also challenges us.

That is what I thought President Obama did in his speech today. So it was a great day, not only for President Obama and Michelle and their family, for our great friend, JOE BIDEN, now our Vice President, and Jill and his family, a great day for America, a real turning point, I think, in our history.

So we look forward with confidence and with optimism to the future. I wished to take the floor today to say a few words about my friend, Tom...
Vilsack, who I hope the Senate today will concur in his being passed through for being Secretary of Agriculture. I have known Tom well since the 1980s. He was a lawyer in Mount Pleasant, IA, at that time. We had a terrible catastrophe in agriculture; farmers were going broke, a lot of suicides were being committed in my State and around rural America.

Tom Vilsack was a small-town lawyer. I did not know him from anybody. But he took upon himself the job of defending a lot of these small farmers, helping them to work through their problems, and getting them through these hard times.

That is the first time I ever came in contact with him. I thought he was one of those rare individuals who saw something that was wrong which needed to be done and he would involve himself in it. He did not make any money being this. There was no money to be made. But he got involved in it, and I can tell you, he helped many small farmers hang onto their farms.

Well, later on, by then a tragedy happened in Mount Pleasant, IA. Tom Vilsack was thrown out of the city council. There was a terrible tragedy in which the mayor had been murdered, and they asked Tom to take over as mayor—again, another catastrophe in that small community. So Tom Vilsack then took over as mayor of Mount Pleasant, pulled the city together, kept it going, and lifted it up.

Shortly after that then, he ran to be a State Senator and was elected as a State Senator. He served very admirably there. He then later ran to be Governor and served for two terms as the Governor of our State of Iowa. He had a great two terms—8 years, 4 years each—as our Governor. Again, he showed his method. That, plus what he had done earlier, I think showed the true mark of this individual.

So I could not have been happier when I found that President Obama had picked him to be Secretary of Agriculture. He is the best person for that position agriculture. He knows what is happening out on the farms. He also is one of the strongest proponents of the conservation of natural resources and clean water and clean air. Suffice to say, I think all my friends at Pleasant and Forever and Ducks Unlimited and all the people I go hunting with every year love Tom Vilsack because of all he has done to encourage wildlife habitats and the conservation of our natural resources—something, again, I feel very strongly about.

Then, again, in his hearing before our Agriculture Committee, he talked about nutrition and the role nutrition plays in health care reform and how we have to think about prevention and wellness. That starts with our kids. And what starts with our kids? School lunches and school breakfasts and the foods they eat in school, the women, infants, and children’s supplemental feeding program, what kind of food are they getting?

Now, before the Agriculture Committee this year, Senator Chambliss and I will be working together on our committee to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act. This is the school lunch, the school breakfast, and the WIC program, the women, infants, and children’s supplemental feeding program. We have to do better for our kids. We have to get better food, locally grown foods, healthier foods, fruits and vegetables, and things such as that for our kids to eat. He talked about this in his hearing before our committee.

So I do not wish to take any more time of the Senate. I see our distinguished leader in the Chamber. But I wished to thank President Obama for asking Governor Vilsack to be Secretary of Agriculture. I have asked Senator Chambliss. We know of no objections—not one objection on our committee—to his nomination.

So I hope the Senate will, this afternoon, by unanimous consent, clear him so tomorrow he can be at the door. He said: As soon as I am confirmed, the first thing I want to do is go to the Department of Agriculture and stand outside at 7 o’clock in the morning to greet all the people coming in because I want them to know I care about them, that I honor their work and look forward to being Secretary of the Department. The one Department I always say, of all the Secretaries we have—the Secretaries of State and Treasury get all this publicity, and they travel the world and all that and get a lot of publicity—the Secretary of Agriculture hardly gets any publicity. But no Department—no Department—-touches every American every day as closely and as intimately as the Department of Agriculture: the food you eat, the clothes you wear, the food safety programs. Things happen to our kids in school, what they eat—all this is in the Department of Agriculture.

So I hope the Senate will, by unanimous consent, follow the lead of the Agriculture Committee in unanimously approving Tom Vilsack to be our next Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter, dated January 20, 2009, be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

U.S. S ENATE, C OMMITTEE ON A GRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND F ORESTY.


Re Nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack to be Secretary of Agriculture.

Hon. Harry Reid, Majority Leader.
Hon. Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader.
DEAR LEADERS: On December 17, 2008, President-elect Obama announced his intention to nominate Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture. The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry forwarded the Committee’s nomination questionnaire to Secretary-designate Vilsack. The Committee requires each nominee to complete a questionnaire relating to the nominee’s qualifications and potential conflicts of interest. Governor Vilsack’s responses to the questionnaire provided basic biographical and financial information.

As part of the confirmation process, the Committee received the nominee’s Public Financial Disclosure Report and a copy of Governor Vilsack’s letter to Mr. Raymond J. Sheehan, Designated Agency Ethics Official, U.S. Department of Agriculture. This letter details the steps that Governor Vilsack will take to avoid potential conflicts or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

In anticipation of the nomination, the Committee conducted a hearing on January 14, 2009, in public session, to carefully review the credentials and qualifications of Secretary-designate Vilsack. Governor Vilsack was the only witness at this hearing.

After the hearing and after Committee Members had the opportunity to review responses to written questions submitted for the record, the Committee polled all Members of the Committee to ascertain their positions regarding this nominee. We are pleased to report that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry unanimously supports the nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack for the position of Secretary of Agriculture.

Tom Harkin, Chairman.
Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no rollcall votes today.

SENATOR TED KENNEDY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have just left the memorable inauguration of Barack Obama. But as President Obama said a few minutes ago, our minds are not on the events of today but for the fact that Senator Kennedy took ill during the lunch. Senator Kennedy is now in a Washington hospital.
He and I sat together at the inauguration. We had such a wonderful time visiting about where we were and where we are.

So I would ask all, within the sound of my voice, to pause for a brief moment with our thoughts and, for those who are gathered, our prayers, for Senator Kennedy and his lovely wife Vicki.

(Moment of silence.)

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is very cold in Washington today, but our Nation’s heart is warm. From every corner of our country and the furthest crevices of the Earth, people came together at the apex of our democracy to be a part of an American renewal.

President Barack Obama’s inaugural address appealed to our better angels, as Abraham Lincoln called them, and our best intentions. President Obama reminded us no matter how daunting our challenges may seem, America always answers the call of history.

The millions who came together, lining and swaying for miles, were not merely observers to this memorable day; they were participants, ready to work with our new President in service to a common cause.

Our great country is ready to join our new President to answer that call to service. That is why we are in session now, a few short hours after the swearing in. Faced with some of the great challenges of our lifetimes and challenges in the history of our country, there is no time to waste.

In the coming days, weeks, and months, we will work with President Obama and our Republican colleagues to revive our economy, protect homeowners and consumers, bring our country closer to energy independence, strengthen our national security, and improve access to health care and education for all Americans.

These challenges require a President with a full arsenal of tools and experts. President Obama has nominated a Cabinet of exceptionally bright and capable people, as indicated by support from all over America—Democrats and Republicans and Independents talking about these great Cabinet nominees. These nominees represent a cross-section of our country, geographically and politically.

So it is up to us, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate, to confirm these worthy nominees quickly so they, along with our new President, can begin the ground running.

I express my appreciation to my distinguished counterpart, Senator McConnell, for working with us today to move on to some of these nominations. For those who are not going to be able to do so today, we are going to work to approve them shortly.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a document entitled “Employment Guidelines for Potential Presidential Appointees in Subcabinet Positions” be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

EMPLOYMENT GUIDELINES FOR POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEE IN SUBCABINET POSITIONS

An individual may be employed as an advisor or counselor to the President prior to announcement, nomination and confirmation but after being selected as a potential nominee. The advisor/counselor must:

- Act in a manner consistent with that of an advisor preparing for the official duties and responsibilities and not presume any authority that could come only as a result of Senate confirmation. For example, do not use the office space, dining facilities, etc. that are available only to a confirmed appointee in that position.
- Comply with all applicable ethics rules.
- Have access to classified materials until a security clearance is issued.
- Serve as an official Department representative in meetings or on travel.
- Undertake to hire, transfer, or terminate members of a potential future organization or otherwise reorganize its management. It is permissible, however, to meet and interview applicants and to informally advise confirmed appointees on personnel and organizational issues.
- Use the term “designate” prior to nomination by the President of the United States. Meet with anyone outside the Department unless accompanied by a “reasonable official” of the Department who can speak for the Department. The limited role as a consultant to the Department, and not an official of the Department, should be made clear.
- Attend a meeting with a contractor.
- Meet with foreign officials or interest groups to any extent. Represent or speak for a component of the Department, or a prospective component, in a meeting within the Department.
- Meet with the press, rather than in connection with the confirmation process and then after consultation with Public Affairs. Give speeches or many any appearances outside the Department on any issue relating to the business of the Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive action, receive and consider nominations received today: Steven Chu to be Secretary of Energy; Arne Duncan to be Secretary of Education; Janet Napolitano to be Secretary of Homeland Security; Peter Orszag to be Director of OMB; Kenneth Salazar to be Secretary of Interior; Eric Shinseki to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Thomas Vilsack to be Secretary of Agriculture. I ask consent that the Senate proceed to the motion on the table en bloc; that the nominations be confirmed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order, and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The Acting President pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Arne Duncan, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Education.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Steven Chu, of California, to be Secretary of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Janet Ann Napolitano, of Arizona, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Eric K. Shinseki, of Hawaii, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Peter R. Orszag, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(At the request of Mr. Reid, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

NOMINATION OF ARNE DUNCAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am pleased to voice enthusiastic support for the nomination of Arne Duncan to serve as Secretary of Education, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination. Mr. Duncan brings inspiration, dedication, and ability to the field of education, and I am confident that his leadership will help move America forward to tackle the challenges present in our educational system.

Last week, Mr. Duncan appeared before our Education Committee for his confirmation hearing. He was met with broad bipartisan support from members across our committee for his vision and his commitment to move American education forward at all levels—from early education through college.

Mr. Duncan shared with us his very personal connection to the field of education, which first developed with his work alongside his mother in an after-school tutoring program for needy students. Since then, he has worked to confront challenges and advance reforms as head of Chicago’s schools. We...
are all aware of the demands on superintendents of large city school systems, which is why the average tenure of an urban school chief is less than 3 years. In Chicago, Arne Duncan has given 7. In each of those years, he focused with relentless determination on closing achievement gaps, improving teacher quality, reducing dropout rates, and better engaging communities in schools.

Throughout his career, Arne Duncan has brought an impressive, do-no-soft approach to tackling the complex challenges present in our education system. He is a leader who will bring people together, put children first, support teachers and focus on results. Each of those traits will serve all of us well as he takes the helm of the U.S. Department of Education.

Today’s nomination should also remind us all of the importance of education to America’s future.

Education is the key to opportunity and a strong economy, and America’s schools and teachers are the catalysts for change. The ability of each of our young people to compete and succeed in this new, global economy depends on our ability to ensure that they receive a high-quality education. Education is also key to our national security. Skills and knowledge are the pathway to protecting America and maintaining our progress in the world.

Most of all, education is key to maintaining our respect for our core values, and to ensuring the vitality of our democracy.

My friend and colleague, the late Clairome Pelle, used to say that the real strength and security of our nation lies in the education and character of our people. Our Founding Fathers agreed, and so did many school reformers after them, from John Dewey to Horace Mann. As Americans, we have an obligation to provide everyone—regardless of their background, economic means, disability, or language skills—with the best possible education that enables them to develop their talents and participate fully and actively in their communities and in their country.

In order to achieve this goal, we need a new, major effort to confront and address the persistent challenges that are present in our educational system. This effort must span from the early years—preschool, kindergarten, and with a strong foundation in early years, quality is the key. We need to ensure that every child can arrive at school ready with the skills necessary to succeed in kindergarten, and with a strong foundation from which to build and grow in their later academic experiences.

In each of these areas—early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, and higher education—there are great challenges to be met. We must forge ahead with an urgency to confront each of them head on, and improve educational opportunities for all Americans.

Today is a great day that reminds us of all that’s possible in the days ahead. Our work to help others achieve the American dream begins by improving education across our country. We should each dedicate ourselves to that purpose, for the future of our education system that enables persistent achievement and opportunity gaps. No Child Left Behind started us down the road of accountability and high expectations for all students. But we need a new, national strategy to implement the law’s goals.

Any effort at improving public education must begin by supporting and strengthening America’s teachers, who reside on the front line of school reform. We need new avenues to attract talented individuals into the teaching profession and to ensure that they remain in the classroom. We need new ways to encourage our best teachers to serve in the neediest schools, new mechanisms for recognizing and rewarding teacher successes, greater chances for teachers to develop and share their practice, and better opportunities for teachers to become leaders and decisionmakers in their own schools.

We cannot afford for America’s students to attend a school that is not focused and spaced in this 21st century economy. We must support new efforts to increase the rigor and relevance of the school curriculum, more efficient and effective methods of testing and using school data, greater supports for disabled students and English learners, and a better-organized school schedule that maximizes learning time and provides new connections for students to develop knowledge and skills in their communities.

Unlocking the doors of higher education is more important today than ever before, and the dream of a college education should be available to any student with the talent, desire, and commitment to pursue it. Yet many of America’s students still lack the help and assistance they need to prepare for college. A dollar sign still bars the doors of college opportunity for too many. For others, the path to college is blocked by student loans and unmet financial need.

In the 110th Congress, we responded to these challenges by enacting the College Cost Reduction and Access Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. We committed to provide an unprecedented lifeline of need-based grant aid to students, to upgrade essential programs that prepare students for college, to reforming our student loan programs, and to simplifying the application process for college aid.

Yet far more remains to be done to address college access and affordability, and to bring the promise of a college degree to many more students. We must make greater strides in expanding the Pell grant for America’s neediest students. We need new efforts to ensure that our Federal student aid programs protect students and taxpayers from risk, new mechanisms to contain and reduce soaring college costs, and new efforts to better the educational pipeline by strengthening community colleges and investing in college persistence and completion.

In each of these areas—early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, and higher education—there are great challenges to be met. We must forge ahead with an urgency to confront each of them head on, and improve educational opportunities for all Americans.

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also spoke of the important role teachers have and how we need not only to attract but retain quality teachers. He believes that children have one chance to get a good education, and as adults we need to make sure they have that opportunity and achieve it.

Historically, education has been a bipartisan issue. The HELP Committee has an excellent track record for getting bills passed and signed into law as a result of a strong bipartisan process. Mr. Duncan did not hesitate to commit to establishing and maintaining a cooperative working relationship with all Senators on the HELP Committee, Democrat or Republican, by promptly responding to any written or phone inquiries, sharing information as soon as it becomes available, and directing his staff to do the same. He also agreed that regulations promulgated under his direction should be based on legislative authority. Despite the recognition that it is easier to start something than to end it, he pledged to target resources on programs that work and to eliminate those programs that don’t. The members of the committee were impressed with his answers to our questions, and it was evident from our comments that he enjoys strong bipartisan support. I am hopeful that support will show itself by our vote today.

Mr. Duncan is no stranger to the challenges that he will face as Secretary of Education. He understands the obstacles that will affect every child and every schoolroom throughout the United States. His track record with a major urban school district is well known. However, I did caution Mr. Duncan that I will remind him regularly and often of the unique challenges that rural and frontier schools and students face. Congress and the Department of Education need to work together to make sure that every school has the tools and the flexibility needed by students to develop the knowledge and skills required to be successful in the 21st century.

We cannot afford to have students leaving high school—and college—without completing their programs of study. Mr. Duncan and I agree that we have to build upon the successes of No Child Left Behind, coordinate efforts with State and local law enforcement, and the myriad tests that DHS and the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, must be prepared to tackle fiscal and budgetary imbalances. And the next few years will also see cresting waves of baby boom retirements, with enormous impacts on Social Security and Medicare expenditures, as well as the Federal workforce.

Pointing to these trends and to the estimated $1.2 trillion deficit for the current fiscal year, President Obama has prudente warned that unless strong measures are taken, the outlook is for “red ink as far as the eye can see.” That is, of course, an unacceptable and unsustainable scenario for the Government, for the economy, and for the households and business owners who pay the Government’s bills.

As the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, will also play a critical role in providing this education and the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the 21st century. Our country’s future depends on our ability to reach this goal.

It is no secret that good skills lead to good jobs. Maintaining those skills through a lifetime of learning will lead to a good career. Mr. Duncan understands this and the fact that the workplace isn’t what it used to be. In this global, technology-driven economy, school is never out. Today’s workplace demands an ever-changing workforce that can adapt to the requirements and skills of the new high-tech jobs that are in such high demand. Keeping workers’ abilities current will be vital if they are to continue to find the kind of good jobs they will need to support their families and maintain a consistently high standard of living. I was pleased to see that Mr. Duncan supports the role community colleges can play in providing this education and training and understands the need to support and accommodate the growing population of nontraditional students in our postsecondary education institutions.

I am pleased to be able to join the distinguished chairman of the committee, Senator Lieberman, in supporting the confirmation of Mr. Duncan to be the next Secretary of Education. Today, this body has the opportunity to confirm an excellent nominee with the skills, experience, and compassion and budgetary insight throughout their lives achieve their own version of the American dream. By confirming Arne Duncan as the next Secretary of Education I am confident that we will have an effective advocate for沃c who will work to meet the lifelong education needs of our children and students of all ages.

I intend to vote in favor of Mr. Duncan’s nomination to head the Department of Education, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

NOMINATION OF PETER R. ORSZAG

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to support the nomination of Dr. Peter R. Orszag to be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

As our Nation wrestles with the economic crisis, the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, must be prepared to tackle serious fiscal and budgetary crises. The Federal budget is under stress from the impact of a deep recession and the costs of rescue and stimulus packages. Spiraling, out-of-control health-care costs are driving long-term budgetary imbalances. The next few years will also see cresting waves of baby boom retirements, with enormous impacts on Social Security and Medicare expenditures, as well as the Federal workforce.

I look forward to working with him as we confront the financial problems our Nation faces, and for people’s ability to decide what to do with their own money. The public also expects aggressive oversight and careful stewardship of the Troubled Asset Relief Program and of any future economic-recovery packages.

Dr. Orszag will also need to focus intensely on the management challenges confronting the Federal Government. OMB must provide sustained leadership to build upon contracting reforms Senator LIEBERMAN and I championed in the last Congress. Improving transparency and accountability in Government operations and enhancing agency performance will also be Dr. Orszag’s responsibility.

These and other pressing challenges will confront Dr. Orszag as Director of Office of Management and Budget. I look forward to working with him as we confront the financial problems our Nation faces.

NOMINATION OF JANET NAPOLITANO

Mr. President, I also support the nomination of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano to be the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Today marks the sixth anniversary of any future economic-recovery package. The Department of Homeland Security has an excellent track record with a major urban school district is well known. However, I did caution Mr. Duncan that I will remind him regularly and often of the unique challenges that rural and frontier schools and students face. Congress and the Department of Education need to work together to make sure that every school has the tools and the flexibility needed by students to develop the knowledge and skills required to be successful in the 21st century.

We cannot afford to have students leaving high school—and college—without completing their programs of study. Mr. Duncan and I agree that we have to build upon the successes of No Child Left Behind, coordinate efforts with State and local law enforcement, and the myriad tests that DHS and the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, must be prepared to tackle fiscal and budgetary imbalances. And the next few years will also see cresting waves of baby boom retirements, with enormous impacts on Social Security and Medicare expenditures, as well as the Federal workforce.

Pointing to these trends and to the estimated $1.2 trillion deficit for the current fiscal year, President Obama has prudente warned that unless strong measures are taken, the outlook is for “red ink as far as the eye can see.” That is, of course, an unacceptable and unsustainable scenario for the Government, for the economy, and for the households and business owners who pay the Government’s bills.

As the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, will also play a critical role in providing this education and the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the 21st century. Our country’s future depends on our ability to reach this goal.

It is no secret that good skills lead to good jobs. Maintaining those skills through a lifetime of learning will lead to a good career. Mr. Duncan understands this and the fact that the workplace isn’t what it used to be. In this global, technology-driven economy, school is never out. Today’s workplace demands an ever-changing workforce that can adapt to the requirements and
The Governor’s law enforcement background and knowledge of homeland security issues are impressive. Her experience as a border-State Governor enables her to bring an important perspective to the Department. Arizona, like my home State of Maine, is a border State with extensive cross-border and tourism. Residents of border communities work, shop, worship, and visit friends and family on both sides of the border, complicating the challenge of border security.

Governor Napolitano understands that we have to let our friends in, while keeping our enemies out—enforcing border regulations in a practical manner that accommodates legitimate trade and travel.

One emerging challenge the new Secretary will face is the need to enhance security at the Nation’s cyber-infrastructure. The Department must fully understand the cyber threat, establish national standards, and develop best practices across the executive branch, as well as redouble its efforts to work with the private sector on cyber-security.

We must also continue to focus on the security and resiliency of our Nation’s critical infrastructure. With more than 85 percent of those assets in private hands, this is a daunting task. Seaports and chemical facilities have been made more secure through legislation that I supported. In addition, to extend these two important programs, the Department must develop a strategy to promote the best practices developed through the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.

In these areas, DHS has helped improve our all-hazards preparedness and response capabilities. Homeland security grant funding for our State and local first responders has certainly played a key role in that effort. Funding levels in the last few years, however, have been under attack from the executive branch, and DHS has not yet fully complied with the requirement to establish an all-hazards risk formula. The Department must also improve information sharing and cooperation with our State and local partners.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency forms the core of the Department’s ability to perform its preparedness, response, and recovery obligations. After Hurricane Katrina, Senator Lieberman and I authored vital reforms of FEMA. Subsequent disasters like wildfires, tornadoes, and severe storms and floods have demonstrated FEMA’s documented improvements and the logical combination of all-hazards prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in a single department underscore the need to keep FEMA within DHS. Detaching FEMA in the vain hope of recapturing mythical halcyon days would weaken its effectiveness, reduce the ability of DHS to carry out its all-hazards planning mandate, cause needless duplication of effort, and foment confusion among the public and state and local officials during a disaster. That is why our Nation’s leading first responder organizations, like the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the International Association of the Chiefs of Police, and the National Troopers Coalition, all strongly support keeping FEMA as part of DHS.

As former Secretary of Homeland Security, DHS still suffers from significant integration and management challenges. The effective operation of the Department’s 22 legacy agencies requires a strong Departmental culture, close collaboration between the Department’s components, and effective cooperation with other Federal, State, local, tribal and private-sector partners. From the Department’s program management and resources allocation to the basic need for a consolidated headquarters, the next Secretary must focus intently on removing obstacles to effective integration and improved performance.

To continue its growth, the Department must continue to establish and enforce the culture necessary to lead its dedicated workforce. I believe Governor Janet Napolitano has the ability to meet these and other challenges facing the Department of Homeland Security in the years to come. I look forward to working with her and urge support for her nomination.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the nomination of GEN Eric Shinseki for Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I have three criteria that I use to evaluate all executive branch nominees: competence, integrity, and commitment to the core mission of the Department. Based on these criteria, I wholeheartedly support General Shinseki to be our next Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

In his 38-year Army career, which culminated at Chief of Staff of the Army and as a prior advocate for the soldiers—he was a soldier’s general. As a veteran of combat in Vietnam, during which he suffered life threatening and life altering injuries, General Shinseki understands the sacrifices made by returning troops face. He knows what it is like to be made whole again in the military health care system. Know General Shinseki will focus on transforming the Department of Veterans Affairs to meet the challenges of the last century with the same fortitude and tenacity he has shown throughout his military career.

This is a critical time for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Historically high percentages of wounded soldiers are surviving their wounds. For this we should be thankful. However, many of them are grievously disabled with debilitating, visible wounds of war, or with equally debilitating wounds that do not bleed—like post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. Our veterans’ health systems must be updated and adapted to care for this new generation of wounded warriors, who have made a 50-year commitment to our wounded warriors to care for them. We must streamline the red-tape that prevents wounded warriors from receiving the care they need. We must shorten the months of waiting for the benefits claims process to unfold. We must better integrate the DOD and VA health care systems to create a single system with uniform rating processes and standards. We must ensure that veterans have earned.

The Department of Veterans Affairs challenges don’t end with our immediate obligations to our wounded veterans, but must persist in addressing our long-term promises to our veterans. This means maintaining affordable, high quality health care for our retired servicemembers. Making it responsive. Providing the best care. Ensuring our promises made are promises kept.

The Department of Veterans Affairs challenges also include aiding members with the transition to civilian life. I am proud of the recent steps we have taken in Congress to help veterans. Last year we passed the post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act to make badly needed updates to the G.I. bill. This legislation will provide educational benefits to help a new generation of veterans and servicemembers so they can better themselves through education, better their ability to serve as solid citizens, and better provide for themselves and their families. I am also proud of the wounded warrior legislative provisions Congress passed in 2007. These provisions mandated a modernization the military health care system’s approach to post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury care. I will look to General Shinseki not just to ensure the implementation of these groundbreaking legislative accomplishments, but also to identify meaningful and comprehensive steps to build on this foundation to ensure that our veterans health care system delivers the world class care our veterans have earned.

I look forward to working with GEN Eric Shinseki as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and have full confidence in his honesty, his integrity, and his ability to stand up for our veterans. The next Secretary of Veterans Affairs will face the challenge of meeting those challenges with him as he leads the Veterans Affairs Department in this time of change.
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 Ceremonies proceedings be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, at 6:45 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 Representa-
tives 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 Rep-
resentatives, Thomas Foley and Newt Ging-
rich, 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. S. Daley, Mr. L. Falwell, executive director of the 56th Presidential Inaugural Committee; and Mr. E. 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 John Roberts, Jr., and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States assembled on the President's platform.

The 59th 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, William 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. Lyne Cheney, accompanied by Minority Leader Harry Reid, Mrs. Bennett, Mr. Boehner, and Republican staff director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Mary Sue 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 Senate 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 Vice 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 Tommy Davis; Senate majority leader, Senator Harry Reid; House majority leader, Representative Steny Hoyer; and key members of the Administration, 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 of the United States, and distinguished guests, welcome to the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States of America.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. The world is watching today as our great democracy engages in this peaceful transition of power. Here on the National Mall, where we remember the founders of our Nation and those who fought to make it free, we gather to etch another line in the solid stone of history. The freedom of a people to choose its leaders is the root of liberty. In a world where political strife is too often settled with violence, we come here every 4 years to bestow the power of the Presidency upon our democratically elected leader.

Those who doubt the supremacy of the ballot over the bullet can never diminish the power engendered by nonviolent struggles for justice and equality like the one that made this day possible. No triumph tainted by brute force could ever match the sweet victory of this hour and of what it means to those who marched and died to make it a reality. Our work is not yet finished, but future generations will see our commitment as the turning point for real and necessary change in our Nation. They will look back and remember that this was the moment when America moved once again across history from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial finally reached the walls of the White House.

We now commit our new President and his family Michelle and his daughters, Malia and Sasha, into Your loving care, I humbly ask that You will crown him with mercy, and that one day all nations and all people will live in this land, a land of unequalled possibility, where the son of an African American can rise to the highest level of our leadership.

When we focus on ourselves, when we forget You, when we fail to treat our fellow human beings and all the Earth with the respect that they deserve, we are in danger.

As we face these difficult days ahead, may we have a new birth of clarity in aims, responsibility in our actions, humility in our approach, and civility in our debates, even when we differ. Help us to share, to serve, and to seek the common good of all.

May all people of goodwill today join together to work for a more just, a more healthy, and a more prosperous nation and a peaceful planet. And may we never forget that one day all nations and all people will stand accountable before You.

We welcome our new President and his family Michelle and his daughters, Malia and Sasha, into Your loving care, I humbly ask that You will crown him with mercy, and that one day all nations and all people will live in this land, a land of unequalled possibility, where the son of an African American can rise to the highest level of our leadership.

The First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush, and the wife of the Vice President, Mrs. Barbara Bush, assembled on the President's platform.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. At this time I call upon Dr. Rick Warren, pastor of the Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA, to provide the invocation.

Pastor WARREN. Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Father, everything we see and everything we experience because of You alone. It all comes from You. It all belongs to You. It all exists for Your glory. History is Your story. The scripture tells us: Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one. And You are the compassionate and merciful one, and You are loving to every one You have made. Now, today, we rejoice, not only in America's peaceful transfer of power for the 44th time, we celebrate a hinge point of history, with the inauguration of our first African-American President of the United States. He is the one that could live in this land, a land of unequalled possibility, where the son of an African American can rise to the highest level of our leadership. We know today that a healthy, a more prosperous nation and a peaceful planet. And may we never forget that one day all nations and all people will stand accountable before You.

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Mrs. FEINSTEIN. In that spirit, we today not only inaugurate a new administration, we pledge ourselves to the hope, the vision, the unity, and the plain and simple call to greatness inspired by the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Thank you, and God bless America.

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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 Associate Justice JOHN PAUL STEVENS administered the Vice President-elect the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, which he repeated, as follows:

"I, JOSEPH BIDEN, 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 of Vice 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."

(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. (Applause.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. It is my distinct honor to present the Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr., who will administer the President-elect the oath of office.

The President-elect, the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, which he repeated, as follows:

"I, BARACK OBAMA, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of 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 so many.

I thank Governor Mitt Romney for his service to our Nation, as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition.

For the Americans who have 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 skill or vision of those in high office, but because of the faith and sacrifices of ordinary Americans.

This, 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 bent on finding answers than when we were last week or last month or last year. Our capacity remains uniminished, and our time of standing pat and protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions—that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick up the few world events and travel across oceans in search of a new life. For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West, endured the lash of the lash and the scourge of persecution, and fought the war with no thought but how we could end it.

For the 44th Americans, they are raw so that we might live a better life. They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions, greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction.

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 bent on finding answers than when we were last week or last month or last year. Our capacity remains uniminished, and our time of standing pat and protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions—that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.

(Applause.)

For everywhere we look, there is work to be done. In the Wei of jobs that can be done right here, at decent wages, we can afford, a retirement that is dignified. Where the answer is, yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will expire unless Congress acts on the wisdom of our Nation's dollars will be held to account—to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day, so that then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their Government.

Nor is the question before us whether the market is a force for good or ill. Its power to generate wealth and expand freedom is unmatched. But this crisis has reminded us that without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control and that a nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosers. The success of our economy has always depended not on the size of our gross domestic product but on the reach of our prosperity, on the ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart—not out of charity or the travail of times, but because it is the surest route to our common good.

For our common defense, we reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals. Our Founding Fathers, faced with perils that we can scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man, a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience sake. And so to all the other peoples and governments who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the smallest villages, where our power alone cannot protect us, nor does it have to defend the consequences, we will always be the keepers of this legacy.

We must acknowledge that the state of our economy calls for new action. Our nation is at war against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred. Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some and also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the Nation for a new age. Jobs at decent wages are gone. Health care is too costly; our schools fall too many; and each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and undo our planet. The indicators of crisis, subject to data and statistics. Less measurable but no less pro-
In the year of America’s birth, in the coldest of months, a small band of patriots huddled by dying camp fires on the shores of an icy river; the capital was abandoned, the enemy was advancing, snow was stained with blood; at a moment when the outcome of our Revolution was most in doubt, the Father of our Nation ordered these words be read to the people of America:

Let it be told to the future world... that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive... that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth with one heart and one voice: America, in the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us repledge ourselves...With humble and honest hearts, and without fear or hope, we must还不 turn back, nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God’s grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations.

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

(Mrs. FEINSTEIN.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I have the distinct pleasure of introducing an American poet, Elizabeth 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 speaking...All about us is noise. All about us is noise and bramble, thorn and din, each one of our ancestors on our tongues.

Someone is stitching up a hem, darning a hole, rimming a tire, reparing the things in need or repair.

A woman and her son wait for the bus. A father considers the changing sky. A teacher says, “Take out your pencils. Begin.”

We encounter each other in words, words spiny or smooth, whispered or declared, words to consider, reconsider.

We cross dirt roads and highways that mark the will of some one and then others, who said we need to see what’s on the other side.

I know there’s something better down the road. We need to find a place where we are safe. We walk into that which we cannot yet see.

Say it plainly: that many have died for this day. Sing the names of the dead who brought us here, who laid the train tracks, who picked the cotton and the lettuce, built brick by brick the glittering edifices they would then keep clean and work inside of.

Praise song for struggle, praise song for the day. Praise the song for every hand-lettered sign, the figuring-it-out at kitchen tables.

Some live by love thy neighbor as thy self, others by first do no harm or take no more than it is right to have. What if the mightiest word is love?

Love beyond marital, filial, national, love that casts a widening pool of light, love without end; love that seeks to solve grievances.

In today’s sharp sparkle, the winter air, any thing can be made, any sentence begun. On the brisk, on the brim, on the cusp, praise song for walking forward in that light.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. And now it is my privilege to introduce the Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery to deliver the benediction.

May the Lord, for your blessing upon thy servant, Barack Obama, the 44th President of these United States, his family and his administration, have come to this high office at a low moment in the national and, indeed, global fiscal climate. But because we know you have got the whole world in Your hands, we pray for not only our Nation but for the community of nations. Our faith does not shrink, though pressed by the flood of mortal ills, for we know that, Lord, You are able and you, Thine will be done. To that end, may we forever stand true to our God and true to our native land.

We truly give thanks for the glorious experience that we have shared here and now, for O Lord, for your blessing upon thy servant, Barack Obama, the 44th President of these United States, his family and his administration.

As we consider the role that unfolds before us, we will remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who at this very hour patrol far off deserts and distant mountains. They have something to tell us just as the fallen in Arlington do: we are all in the army of the living and the dead.

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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 also 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 to-morrow, 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 upon 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 tem. 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 tem. 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 Obama’s story was a story of unexpressed thoughts. I have said many things I wish I had not said, but this is one time I wish I had said, 4 years ago, what I was thinking. So I wish to say it today, right after President Obama’s inauguration. And I am especially delighted Senator MARTINEZ happens to be here too.

What I was thinking 4 years ago as the new Senators were sworn in was that here were three Members of the new class who had especially unique characteristics: They had special people in the gallery that day.

I, with Senator CARPER and some others, had been asked by the leaders to work on the orientation for the new Senators. So we had gotten to know the new Senators, including SALAZAR and Obama and MARTINEZ, during that period of time.

So here is what I was thinking that day—and let’s take them one by one. Here was Senator SALAZAR from Colorado with a Spanish surname, but he will be quick to tell you that his family has been here for 14 generations and he was the first trip to find Santa Fe. He had had a distinguished career here now. On that day 4 years ago, his mother was in the gallery.

Senator MARTINEZ was sworn in 4 years ago as a new Member of the Senate. In this case from Florida. His story, which he has just published in a remarkably good book which I have given to many of my friends, is the story of a young boy growing up very happily in Cuba whose parents took him to the airport one day, after having bought him a new suit, when he was 14 years of age, and put him on an airplane to Miami, not knowing if they would ever see him again. He was in a foreign home there, then moved to Orlando. The story is all in the book. He went to Florida State, met his wife Kitty, became the mayor of Orlando, then became a member of President Bush’s Cabinet, then a Member of the U.S. Senate. A very remarkable story. His mother, who put him on the airplane in Cuba, was here that day.

These same 4 years ago when we swore in these new Members of the Senate, we also had the Senator from Illinois. We all now know that story very well: a father from Kenya, a mother from Kansas. I don’t need to repeat that extraordinary story, about which he has written so well in his autobiography. But what struck me was that his grandmother was in the gallery that day. It was either his grandmother or his grandfather, but I believe it was his grandmother. His father’s parent was in the gallery that day. That was the first trip to Africa to this country to see the son of an immigrant sworn into the U.S. Senate.

So I thought 4 years ago, and I think again today on this day on which we swear in Barack Obama as President, what a remarkable country this is. Here in this Senate 4 years ago, the 14th-generation American KEN SALAZAR is now going into President Obama’s Cabinet as Secretary of the Interior. MEL 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 was remarkable 4 years ago they came to this Senate, and in that gallery were their parents—and in one case a grandfather—reaffirming what I think Barack Obama’s inauguration represents for us today and was historic in the sense that it helped us symbolize the overcoming of one of our most intractable problems, the problem of race. But just as
important, it symbolized once again the characteristic that makes this country more remarkable than any other country, the idea that anything is possible.

People in other parts of the world look at the United States, and they don’t always approve of us, but they know one thing is different about us: that we are not a country based on blood or race or the color of our skin or where our grandparents came from; that we are based upon our common belief in a few ideas, most of which are incorporated in two founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. But one of those ideas is just in our character, and that is this irrational, fervent belief that in this country, anything is possible. Senator MARTINEZ, Senator SALAZAR, and former Senator Barack Obama all represent that beautifully, and that makes this a very special day. I thank the President, I yield the floor.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009
Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 12 noon tomorrow, Wednesday, January 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and the Senate proceed to executive session as under the previous order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM
Mr. REED. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will consider the nomination of HILLARY CLINTON to be Secretary of State, with up to 3 hours for debate prior to a vote. Under a previous order, the Senate will recess for the weekly caucus luncheons from 12:45 until 2:15 p.m. Senators should expect a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Clinton nomination around 4:30 p.m., if all time is used.

Following executive session, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 181, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Additional rollcall votes are possible throughout the afternoon in relation to the Lilly Ledbetter bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW
Mr. REED. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:58 p.m., adjourned, until Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 12 noon.
HIGHLIGHTS
The House and Senate met for the Inauguration of President Barack Hussein Obama and Vice President Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.

Senate

Chamber Action
Routine Proceedings, pages S661–71
Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 12 noon, on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, Senate consider the nomination of Hillary Clinton, to be Secretary of State, and that there be 3 hours of debate, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees, and that Senate then vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Page S670

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Arne Duncan, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Education.
Janet Ann Napolitano, of Arizona, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.
Peter R. Orszag, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.
Steven Chu, of California, to be Secretary of Energy.
Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture.
Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Secretary of the Interior.
Eric K. Shinseki, of Hawaii, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Hillary Rodham Clinton, of New York, to be Secretary of State.
Dennis Cutler Blair, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of National Intelligence.
Steven Chu, of California, to be Secretary of Energy.
Michele A. Flournoy, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.
Thomas Andrew Daschle, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2012.
Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
Arne Duncan, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Education.
Anusut Dean Goolsby, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.
Timothy F. Geithner, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury.
Robert F. Hale, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).
Eric H. Holder, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Attorney General.
John P. Holdren, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
Lisa Perez Jackson, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
Jeh Charles Johnson, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Defense.
Ronald Kirk, of Texas, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.
Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.
Ray LaHood, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Transportation.
Jane Lubchenco, of Oregon, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.
Janet Ann Napolitano, of Arizona, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.
William J. Lynn, III, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.
Peter R. Orszag, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.
Robert L. Nabor II, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.
Susan E. Rice, of the District of Columbia, to be the Representative of the United States of America

Cecilia Elena Rouse, of California, to be Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.


Mary L. Schapiro, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2014.

Christina Duckworth Romer, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

James Braidy Steinberg, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Nancy Helen Sutley, of California, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Eric K. Shinseki, of Hawaii, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Daniel K. Tarullo, of Massachusetts, to be Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2008.

Hilda L. Solis, of California, to be Secretary of Labor.

Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

Additional Cosponsors:  
Additional Statements:  
Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 3:58 p.m., until 12 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2009. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S671.)

Committee Meetings  
(Committees not listed did not meet)  
No committee meetings were held.

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House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: There were no bills or resolutions introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:  Page H390  
Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Castello to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today.  Page H389  
Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Scalise, wherein he resigned from the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans’ Affairs.  Page H389  
Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Daniel E. Lungren (CA), wherein he resigned from the Committee on the Budget.  Page H389

Inauguration Ceremonies: Pursuant to H. Res. 23, the House proceeded in a body to the Inauguration Ceremony for President Barack Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden.  Pages H389–90

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and at 12:47 p.m., pursuant to H. Res. 61, it stands adjourned until 12 noon on Wednesday, January 21, 2009.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 21, 2009  
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine addressing short-and long-term fiscal challenges, 10 a.m., SD–608.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ray LaHood, to be Secretary of Transportation, 2 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Timothy F. Geithner, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nomination of Susan E. Rice, to be Permanent Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and to be Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative to the United Nations, 2:30 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the financial crisis and the breakdown of financial governance, 2 p.m., SD–342.

House

No committee meetings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
12 noon, Wednesday, January 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will consider the nomination of Hillary Clinton, to be Secretary of State, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination to occur following 3 hours of debate. (Senate will recess from 12:45 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 noon, Wednesday, January 21

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: To be announced.