

State Department at a time of unprecedented global challenges, and at a time when quick confirmation of President Obama's national security team is critical to protect us here at home.

We face two wars abroad, a complex and unpredictable crisis in the Middle East, the nuclear ambitions of a volatile Iranian regime, together with the complexities of dealing with North Korea.

Senator CLINTON has earned the admiration and respect of the global community with her understanding that our international power must be both strong and smart, that the true measure of our influence is not just the size and strength of our military, but also how we use other tools, including diplomacy and foreign assistance, to make the world safer and more free.

Senator CLINTON's exemplary qualifications and wise world view were demonstrated in her confirmation hearings, where she showed a tremendous breadth and depth of knowledge on the major foreign policy issues we face in the world today.

We all remember HILLARY CLINTON's arrival in the Senate a few short years ago—8 years ago. Some wondered—and some out loud—whether a former First Lady who had become a favored target of the rightwing could forge the relationships necessary to be an effective Senator for the people of New York State. She answered that loud, and she answered it very clear.

Some questioned whether a person of such national and international acclaim would put in the time to get to know the inner workings of the Senate and the nitty-gritty of the legislative process. She answered that big time.

It took no time for Senator CLINTON to make believers from those doubters. She became an instant favorite of Democrats and Republicans alike, a forceful advocate for both smart foreign policies and domestic policies, and a remarkably effective student of bipartisanship.

In her time as First Lady of our country, serving as an American emissary to the world, and then in the Senate as a member of the Armed Services Committee, HILLARY CLINTON built the diplomatic skills and breadth of knowledge one needs to be our next Secretary of State. She has the full package.

All but one member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted to approve this outstanding nominee. Democrats and Republicans alike stand in support of our friend and colleague, Senator CLINTON.

I want spread on the RECORD my appreciation for JOHN MCCAIN coming to the floor and saying: Let's approve her now. He tried to do that earlier today.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in sending the world a clear message that we stand behind President Obama and our new Secretary of State as they proceed together to the task of rebuilding our foreign policy to be stronger, smarter, and more able to effectively

lead the world with moral strength once again.

Madam President, first, we yield back all time on both sides.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on confirmation of the nomination of Senator CLINTON to be Secretary of State, with the remaining provisions of the previous unanimous consent agreement in effect.

I would also say this: For all the new Senators and those who may have forgotten, we are starting this vote a little earlier, so we will be lenient here and not tie down the 15-minute rule. But in the future, we are going to start this Congress as we ended the last one. We are going to have 15-minute votes. There will be a 5-minute time period for people who are late getting here. But at the end of 20 minutes, the votes are going to be closed. This will be hard on Democrats and hard on Republicans, but it is a lot harder on everybody waiting around here for these people to come to vote. So some people are going to miss some votes, and I am sorry about that, but it is better for the body if we have votes that end when they are supposed to.

As soon as this matter is completed relating to the confirmation of HILLARY CLINTON, we are going to go back to Ledbetter. We would hope that the Kay Bailey Hutchison amendment in the form of a substitute, which has been offered, can be debated today and that we can vote on that this evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the majority leader's request?

The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, of New York, to be Secretary of State?

Mr. KERRY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll. (Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I would ask that there not be responses from the gallery. Thank you.

The clerk will continue with the call of the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 6 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Akaka	Barrasso	Bayh
Alexander	Baucus	Beigih

Bennett	Grassley	Murkowski
Bingaman	Gregg	Murray
Bond	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Brown	Hatch	Pryor
Brownback	Hutchison	Reed
Bunning	Inhofe	Reid
Burr	Inouye	Risch
Burris	Isakson	Roberts
Byrd	Johanns	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Johnson	Sanders
Cardin	Kaufman	Schumer
Carper	Kerry	Sessions
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Chambliss	Kohl	Shelby
Coburn	Kyl	Snowe
Cochran	Landrieu	Specter
Collins	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Conrad	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Levin	Thune
Cornyn	Lieberman	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Lincoln	Udall (NM)
Dodd	Lugar	Voinovich
Dorgan	Martinez	Warner
Durbin	McCain	Webb
Ensign	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Feingold	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	
Graham	Mikulski	

NAYS—2

DeMint Vitter

NOT VOTING—2

Clinton Kennedy

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

Under the previous order, the President will immediately be notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

Several Senators Addressed the Chair.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I am prepared to offer my amendment to the Ledbetter Act, the Mikulski bill. To proceed, I need to know if that is the order of business.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I was seeking recognition when the quorum call was put in. I am still seeking recognition. Obviously—well, I would just note that, that I was—

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I had been working with Senator MIKULSKI and the majority leader about moving to Senator MIKULSKI's bill and my amendment, which is pending, and I had offered to allow Senator VOINOVICH to speak on that. If the Senator has something to intervene, I would be happy to try to accommodate, but this is the pending business.