

motion to concur; that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 540; that upon disposition of the House message to accompany S. 540, the Chair lay before the body the House message to accompany S. 25, with the remaining provisions of the previous order remaining in effect, with the debate time modified to be 2 minutes equally divided in the usual form prior to the vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 25; that if cloture is not invoked on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 540, the Chair lay before the body the House message to accompany S. 25, with the remaining provisions of the previous order remaining in effect with the exception of the debate time which will now be 2 minutes equally divided in the usual form prior to the vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TINA S. KAIDANOW TO BE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE

NOMINATION OF DANIEL BENNETT SMITH TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH)

NOMINATION OF CATHERINE ANN NOVELLI TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT; UNITED STATES ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

NOMINATION OF CATHERINE ANN NOVELLI TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Tina S. Kaidanow, of the District of Columbia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at

Large; Daniel Bennett Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research); Catherine Ann Novelli, of Virginia, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank; and Catherine Ann Novelli, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes for debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, it is my hope that we do not have to use 30 minutes. But let me start off by saying I am very pleased we have three highly qualified nominees for posts at the State Department that are critical to America's national security and economic diplomacy. These nominees were voted out favorably by the Foreign Relations Committee.

Ambassador Tina Kaidanow is well qualified to serve as Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the Department of State. In a long career, most recently she served as the Deputy Ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. In Kabul she worked on some of the most difficult and pressing terrorism issues the United States faces. She previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs.

Ambassador Kaidanow has shown the ability to forge the types of partnerships necessary to advance the counterterrorism objectives and national security of the United States. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting her nomination.

Next is Daniel Bennett Smith, the President's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research. This is an incredibly important position as the State Department thinks about our advocacy abroad in terms of foreign policy. Having the best information on intelligence and research is critically important, and certainly playing a role as it relates to embassy security across the globe is very important.

Ambassador Smith served as the U.S. Ambassador to Greece from 2010 to 2013. He has been a career officer in the Senior Foreign Service, with the rank of Career Minister. He has served as Executive Secretary of the State Department and as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs and Deputy Executive Secretary.

If confirmed, he will advise State Department officials on the many intelligence issues the Department faces—issues that are critical to policymakers' decisions as they relate to U.S. foreign policy efforts. I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

Finally, Catherine Ann Novelli is in a unique opportunity to help us, particularly with our economic diplomacy

abroad. With over three decades of experience in the public and private sectors, including at senior levels at Apple and in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Ms. Novelli has shown a deep personal commitment to public service. She will bring tremendous private sector skills, understanding of the interagency process, and knowledge of international economic issues to her role as the most senior economic official at the State Department and as an Alternate Governor to the important multilateral development banks that are a big part of our efforts abroad.

Ms. Novelli's experience at the USTR coordinating trade and investment policy for Europe, the Middle East, and northern Africa and the leading role she played in many of the most important U.S. trade negotiations of the last 25 years make her an ideal candidate to lead the State Department's engagement in our country's most ambitious trade agenda in generations.

One thing I find particularly important—as I always advocate questions on international intellectual property rights and other elements that are important to the United States, which leads the world in innovation—our private sector is facing tougher international competition. The world's serious environmental threats and a changing energy landscape are also elements of those challenges.

We are fortunate to have someone with Ms. Novelli's expertise in promoting trade and investment and her intimate knowledge of the support needed to ensure our private sector remains globally competitive. She is the right person to oversee the State Department's efforts to increase commerce, open markets, and support the rights of workers. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

These are three very important, critical positions, and I look forward to the Senate confirming these individuals.

With that, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time on both sides, including the 2 minutes prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON KAIDANOW NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Tina S. Kaidanow, of the District of Columbia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).