

of its health program from inpatient to outpatient care in a period of a declining real budget. In addition, the Department's administration of its benefits programs has been seriously challenged and is in need of major restructuring and effective leadership. Also, the Department, like other federal departments and agencies, faces a major hurdle in adjusting its computer-based information systems to the Year 2000.

It appears to me that Togo D. West, Jr. has the prerequisite qualifications to meet these challenges, to lead the Department, and to provide the health and benefits services which our veterans have come to expect and deserve.

Mr. West has been serving as Acting Secretary since January 2, 1998, pursuant to a December 2, 1997, Presidential directive under authority of the so-called "Vacancies Act," 5 U.S.C. 3348. He concurrently has been serving as Secretary of the Army, a position he has held since November 1993. He relinquishes that position upon being sworn in as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. West's background is extensive and impressive. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Field Artillery Corps upon graduation from college and following law school, he was called to active duty in the Army's Judge Advocate General Corps. In 1975, he served in the Department of Justice as an Associate Deputy Attorney General and in 1977 he was named General Counsel for the Navy. In 1979, he served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary, and in January 1980 was appointed General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Mr. West is an articulate and dedicated public servant. I believe that he will serve well the Department and our country's veterans. Therefore, I thank my colleagues for their support of this nomination.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I'm delighted to join the Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Mr. SPECTER, in bringing before the Senate the nomination of Togo D. West, Jr., to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs and urging his confirmation.

Mr. President, Togo West has a long history of serving his country and America's service members. He began his career as an Army lawyer from 1969 to 1973, first as part of the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and later with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. He left the Army in 1973, but never strayed far from public service. In 1975, he served in the Department of Justice as Associate Deputy Attorney General. In 1977, he was appointed to serve as the Department of the Navy's General Counsel. From there, he also served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense, and in 1980 he was appointed General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Most recently, Togo West served our country as Secretary of the Army, a

position he held beginning in 1993, until President Clinton appointed him Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs on January 2, 1998. As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, West will be responsible for safeguarding and improving the VA's system of delivering health care and benefits to America's 26 million veterans. VA is the second largest federal agency, employing almost 235,000 people, many of them veterans themselves.

Togo West will be filling the vacancy left by Jesse Brown, the former Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Jesse Brown has always been a tireless veterans advocate, and his leadership and energy are missed by veterans and others who also fight on behalf of veterans.

Mr. President, Togo West has a wonderful opportunity to serve the veterans of our Nation in this new capacity. He has demonstrated himself to be a person of the highest integrity with extraordinary leadership skills. President Clinton has shown great confidence in him, his work, and his commitment to veterans by nominating him to serve in this important position. I concur with the President who has said that Togo West "has always understood the special responsibility we owe to our men and women in uniform both during and after their years of service." His unique perspective and experience will serve him well in meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. President, I am proud of the confirmation of Togo West. I thank my colleagues for their unanimous support of this nomination.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT 105-42

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on April 28, 1998, by the President of the United States: Treaty with Brazil on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Treaty Document No. 105-42.)

I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read for the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the Government of the United

States of America and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Brasilia on October 14, 1997. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties that the United States is negotiating in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of modern criminals, including those involved in terrorism, other violent crimes, drug trafficking, money laundering, and other "white-collar" crime. The Treaty is self-executing, and will not require new legislation.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes:

(1) Locating or identifying persons or items; (2) serving documents; (3) taking testimony or statements of persons; (4) transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; (5) providing documents, records, and items; (6) executing requests for searches and seizures; (7) assisting in proceedings related to immobilization and forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; and (8) any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 28, 1998.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1998

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then resume consideration of the Smith-Hutchison amendment No. 2314 to the NATO enlargement treaty.

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

Ms. SNOWE. I further ask unanimous consent that at 11:45 a.m., the Senate proceed to a rollcall vote on or in relation to the Smith-Hutchison amendment, with 2 minutes equally divided for debate prior to the vote.

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

PROGRAM

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will resume consideration of the NATO enlargement treaty at 11:45 a.m. tomorrow morning. At 11:45 a.m., the

Senate will immediately proceed to a rollcall vote on, or in relation to, the Smith-Hutchison amendment No. 2314 offered earlier today. The leader has indicated that he hopes that the Senate will complete action on the NATO expansion treaty by tomorrow evening or the close of business Thursday at the latest. Senators with amendments are encouraged to come to the floor to offer and debate those amendments so that good progress can be made during Wednesday's session. Therefore, Senators should expect rollcall votes throughout Wednesday's session on amendments to the NATO enlargement treaty or any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11:45 A.M.
TOMORROW

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 29, 1998, at 11:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 28, 1998:

STATE DEPARTMENT

MARI CARMEN APONTE, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

E. WILLIAM CROTTY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BARBADOS, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COM-

PENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY TO BARBADOS, THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA, THE STATE OF GRENADA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES.

JEFFREY DAVIDOW, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MEXICO.

JOHN O'LEARY, OF MAINE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

ARTHUR LOUIS SCHECHTER, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS.

CONFIRMATION

Executive Nomination Confirmed by the Senate April 28, 1998:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TOGO DENNIS WEST, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.